■ SPORTS / A27
Podsednik homer lifts White Sox over Astros

■ METRO / A23
MMDA to junk traffic ticket scheme, revert to TVRs

■ ACROSS / A18
Log ban now in force in 15 regions

■ WORLD / A12
No survivors in Nigeria air crash

Declare presidency vacant, SC urged

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr. and Leila B. Salaverria

CHR says no legal basis for CPR, Mendiola ban

By Leila B. Salaverria and Tina S. Santos

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Tuesday, October 25, 2005 ▲ 36 pages | vol. 28 | no. 319

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GMA: No to snap polls, yes to coalition gov't

President discussed issue with Bro. Mike

By John Lubag Javellana, Christine O. Avendaño and Cynthia D. Balana

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo has rejected proposals that she cut short her term to pave the way for the holding of snap elections in 2007, but she is now open to giving the opposition seats in her Cabinet, the Inquirer learned yesterday.

Ms Arroyo has been meeting quietly with El Shaddai leader Bro. Eddie Villanueva and Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal to look for a "way out" of the political crisis brought on by questions of the legitimacy of her presidency, sources close to these people told the Inquirer in separate meetings.

Villanueva and Vidal are reportedly pushing for the holding of a special election in 2007 through an amendment to the Constitution. But as a transitional measure, Vidal, the Cebu archdiocese, Vidal delivered himself from the proposal. (Summary on Page A4.)

The Black and White Movement (BWM) has proposed the other proposal calling on Vice President Noli de Castro to serve as "transition president" until a special election is held, also in 2007.

The group, which includes former Cabinet secretaries Ronaldo Puno, Hector De Castro and others, has to mobilize support from Ms Arroyo and to accept the proposal to take over the government

OPPOSITION politicians rallied for the holding of credible elections after hearing Mass at San Miguel Church beside Malacañang. From left are Sen. Francisco Tatad, former Cabinet Secretary Horacio Morales, ex-Sen. Ernesto Maceda and Mayor Jejomar Binay and JV Ejercito. (Story on Page A7.)

Congress cool to call for early election

By TJ Burgonio and Michael Lim Ubac

EIGHT FOR A FIVE STUDENT orders, joint legislative resolutions in the House and the Senate yesterday was opposed in a proposal to hold snap elections to resolve the 5-month-old political impasse involving President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, an administration stalwart, called the proposal a "cockeyed scheme" being pushed by old guards like Sen. Ramon Revilla Sr. Santiago's remarks were made hours after signed with her saying it was "unrealistic."

But Senate President Franklin Drilon and Speaker Jose de Venecia (Ilocos) should be done away with them in 2007 to end further deterioration of the country's situation. Pimentel said Ms Arroyo and Vice President Noli de Castro should step aside and allow the Senate President to succeed her the following sudden 45 days.

"At least the people will have a chance to say who will be the next leader of the nation. And then we can all rally behind him or her, and give the presidency a new chance to win this nation," Pimentel said.

"Amending the Constitution at this time will only give a new lease on the life of Arroyo, which is not called for under these circumstances."

CONTINUED ON

Inquirer wins 4 Catholic Mass Media Awards

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER last night won four major prizes in this year's Catholic Mass Media Awards.

Inquirer Business deskperson Tina Arceo-Dumlao and reporter Blanche Zarrosa won the Best News Coverage award for an article on the disturbance of Filipino medical professionals for abroad.

Their article bested five other entries, including another one from the Inquirer.

Inquirer photographer Edwin Bacasmas' picture, titled "Jim Trudel," was adjudged the Best Photo of the year.

Chosen as the Best Comic Strip for print was Inquirer contributor Elizabeth Chongbo's "Lovebirds" and the Best Editorial Cartoon award was won by another Inquirer contributor, Gilbert Dueñ.

The Inquirer had 22 nominations in nine categories.

Other prizes were to be awarded later in the evening in the ceremonies held at the Cardinal Bea Study Center at the Ateneo de Manila University at the Katipunan Avenue, Makati.

The Archdiocese of Manila established the awards in 1978 for exemplary works by individuals and organizations in television, cinema, radio, and print, advertising, music, the Internet and circulated publications.

In a message, Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales said the awards recognized those in the media who "have helped communicate by doing good and promoting Gospel values."

He quoted the late Pope John Paul II in saying that modern

INQUIRER NEWS 10

PCIJ publisher Sheila Coronel (center) shows off the trophies won by Erwin Bacasmas for Best News Photo and Beatriz Rivera and Tina Dumlao for Best News Coverage. Other PCIJ winners were Elizabeth Chongbo (left) for Best Comic Strip and Gilbert Dueñ, Best Editorial Cartoon.

HIP OFFICIALS demonstrating the magazines' launch are, from left, Dave Valdes, president; Paolo Prieto, Inquirer Holdings president; Poch Bautista, JVP-general manager; Alexandra Prieto-Ramos-Roy, chair; Doris Bautista, sales and event director; and Alex Lopez, SVP-CFO.

(CHAT readers's product picks.

Inquirer enters world of magazine publishing

THE Inquirer (GOLDIE

The Philippine Daily Inquirer has formally entered into a partnership with Mijh Inc., owner of 63 Magazine, Inc. The Business section will include holder of PC Magazine. This media the entry of the country's No. 1 newspaper into the world of magazine publishing.

The joint venture has formed Hinge Inquirer Publications or HIP, which hopes to further strengthen its brand as a reputable source of the country's premier content providers across a wide array of media, and now to include magazines.

The partnership agreement, signed on Oct. 5 at the Inquirer offices in Makati City, was forged by HIP officials Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez,

INQUIRER NEWS 10

Show kids you read, parents told

By DJ Yap

BE NOT ASHAMED IF YOU READ only Pinoy romance novels or phone/texting magazines.

Read whole children can see you, and those titles have points, for each page, each line and each word has something to teach a child that should be passed on from one generation to the next, according to Fr. Bienvenido Nebres, president of the Ateneo de Manila University.

It's not the material that people read that counts, but the act of and the fact for reading itself. Nebres said at the launch of "Pinoy Reading Rainbow," a four-day read-together kind to celebrate the month for public school teachers, which started

INQUIRER NEWS 10

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2005
Second FRONTPAGE

Court martial for Gudani, aide

THE PRE-TRIAL INVESTIGATION of the two Marine officers who defied President Macapagal-Arroyo's order not to testify at a Senate investigation of alleged election fraud has begun, the military announced yesterday.

Military prosecutors were expected to serve the charge sheet today, Gen. Francisco Gudani (ret.) said. Lt. Col. Alexander Balutan yesterday.

"We'll coordinate with the Senate because they're [Gudani and Balutan] still under Senate custody," said Capt. Cinderella Rivas, a prosecutor in the Armed Forces of the Philippines' Office of the Judge Advocate General.

Rivas said the pre-trial investigation started "since we arrested the charge sheet."

Gudani and Balutan are charged with violation of Article of War 65 or "willful disobedience of a superior officer." They face 10 days to reply to the charges.

Should the pre-trial investigation determine there is "probable cause," he would recommend to the AFP chief of staff to convene a general court-martial, Rivas said.

ON THE DOCK. Army Brigadier General Gudani, right, and Colonel Balutan defied a direct order from the Palace and testified before the Senate on Sept. 30, 2005.

The two Marine officers were ordered investigated after they testified before the Senate committee on defense and national security on Sept. 28 despite a ban on doing so by President Arroyo.

The two told the Senate hearing there was no apparent conspiracy to cheat in the Philippine's behalf in the May 2004 elections in favor of Mrs. Arroyo while they were assigned at the time.

Gudani, who was then commander of the 1st Marine Brigade and head of Task Force Ranao, said he was suddenly recalled to Manila at the height of the election campaign.

Balutan, who was a battalion commander, said the army colonel who temporarily replaced Gudani told him to "slacken" security during the canvassing.

Just before their Senate appearance, Mrs. Arroyo issued Executive Order 464 barring government and military officials from testifying in Congress without her approval.

AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga promptly sacked Gudani and Balutan as Philippine Military Academy assistant superintendent and deputy commandant of the cadet corps, respectively, and ordered their court-martial.

Gudani, a member of PMA Class '73, retired on Oct. 4 when he reached the mandatory retirement age of 56.

The AFP has withheld his entitlements because the case filed against him.

Balutan, a member of PMA Class '83, is still located by EO 464.

In a statement yesterday the AFP said the case "stemmed from their willful noncompliance to the Chief of Staff's official order to all AFP officers to refrain from appearing in any legislative investigation without prior approval."

AFP wraps up 'Hello Garci' probe

By Dona Z. Pazolagas

A MILITARY FACT-FINDING BOARD HAS wrapped up its investigation into the alleged involvement of its personnel in election 8 and last year and will be submitting its findings next week, or this morning, a spokesperson said yesterday.

The five-member board headed by Inspector General Vice Admiral Alexio Maypa had interviewed 71 military officers and personnel, including the four generals implicated in the "Hello Garci" tape scandal, as well as civilians.

The board will submit its final report to AFP chief of staff Gen. Generoso Senga "between the last week of October and the second week of November," said board spokesperson Lt. Cmdr. Earl Evan Pabalan. The findings would be made public at the same time.

"Definitely, the board is poised to make a factual report based on what was submitted to it[s]. If there were indications of opposition, mistakes in the course of the investigation, they would be recommended for further investigation and subsequent disposition action," Pabalan said.

He said the board interviewed "core members" of the military's Task Force RESPECT (Honest, Orderly and Peaceful Elections) that was deployed to oversee the polls by the Commission on Elections during the May 2004 elections.

The fact-finding board was formed last July 20, days after wiretapped alleged "Hello Garci" tapes surfaced.

Four generals were mentioned in the phone conversations allegedly between President Macapagal-Arroyo and Comelec Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano. They were tapped while the votes were being canvassed.

The generals — Philippine Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, Army 1st Infantry Division chief Maj. Gen. Gabriel Habacon, Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamko (ret.), and newly retired Maj. Gen. Francisco Gudani — were summoned before the board.

They all denied involvement in cheating in the elections.

Gudani, then court-martialed for testifying at a Senate investigation of the "Hello Garci" scandal despite a ban on doing so by President Arroyo.

The board yesterday clarified that its role was not to prosecute any officer or individual.

"Its power is only limited, the board, by authority of the chief of staff, shall look into the events that prevailed during the last national elections. It shall also examine the professional conduct of the AFP officers and men," Pabalan said in a statement.

"These shall be done with the end view of improving the systems that are in place, and of resolving conflicts that may have come up between the AFP's current doctrines vis-à-vis the Comelec's deputization of the AFP during elections," he said.

GMA's beef: Press not reporting the good she does

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO TOLD THE Philippine Daily Inquirer that she was disappointed that the media were not reporting the good things that her administration was doing for the country.

"We are doing this through this kind of forum to highlight the good things we are doing because if your head some newspapers, or later on some stations, you might think our country is really in a bad state," said Ms Arroyo during a dialog among economic leaders which also touched on public relations and broadcast advertising.

The President has long complained that the media have been treating her and her family unfairly, even accusing some members of the press of twisting their reports just to put her in a bad light.

On her program, which has become a regular weekly Patrol on state-owned NBN 4, the President underscored the country's positive economic data such as the improving peso (which she claimed was the strongest among the region's currencies), the swell in the international reserves from overseas Filipino workers (up 20 percent or nearly triple the growth target of 10 percent), and record high tourism arrivals.

The President attributed her growing economic scorecard to what she described as an unwavering concentration on the economy despite the turbulent political environment.

"This is because we are focused on the economy even though some breakdowns or broadcast stations all over me with politics when our job is to manage the economy," the President said.

She added that the improved performance of the peso demonstrates the confidence of investors in the economy which should increase further with the implementation of the expanded value-added tax. "Mr. most political will here, this is not a popularity contest," she said.

Funds for anti-riot gear not in budget

By Norman Bordadora

LAW ENFORCERS WHO BRUSHED THE government's calibrated pro-regime response (CPR) against anti-Arroyo demonstrators may have to wait another year for new anti-riot helmets to go with their shields and truncheons.

The chair of the House committee on appropriations yesterday said there were no allocations for new CPR and civil disturbance gear in the trillion-peso budget for 2006.

"And if the police will ask for it, the minimum is to turn it down. In fairness to the Philippine National Police, it has not made any request," Camarines Norte Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. said.

"There is no item for civil disturbance gear in the PNP's P116.6 billion budget request for 2006 and I don't think they will capitalize on the recent spate of rallies to requisition for more," he added.

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3 Contemplacion brothers arrested in drug bust

By Marlon Ramos

CALAMBA CITY – THE THREE SONS OF FILIPINA domestic helper Flor Contemplacion, who was hanged 10 years ago in Singapore, were arrested last Thursday by police anti-vice, prostitution and anti-illegal drug operatives in a buy-bust operation in San Pablo City.

Arrested were Sanford Contemplacion, 32, and his twin brothers Jon Jon and Joel, 25, according to Supt. Elmo Francis Sarona, San Pablo City police chief.

The three are the sons of Contemplacion, who was executed in Singapore in 1995 for the murder of her 4-year-old ward Nicholas Huang and a fellow Filipina domestic helper Delia Maga.

Sarona said the three were arrested in the family's compound in Barangay Sto. Angel at about 10:30 a.m. after a poseur buyer purchased P5,000 worth of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) from them.

Several paraphernalia used in sniffing shabu were also recovered from the suspects.

The police chief said the three had been peddling illegal drugs in the area for years.

"They have been under surveillance and targets of our anti-illegal operations for almost a month now," Sarona told the Inquirer in a mobile phone interview.

"The three brothers ran the whole operation. Sanford managed the drug transactions, his brother Jon Jon received the money, while Joel delivered the shabu to the buyer," he said.

The police were still investigating the drug source of the suspects.

Sarona said drug charges had been filed against the Contemplacion brothers, who could face life imprisonment if found guilty.

The three were detained in the San Pablo City jail, since the new anti-narcotics drugs law does not allow bail if a person is arrested for peddling illegal drugs.

Despite the evidence against them, the three denied any involvement in illegal drugs, Sarona said.

He said the suspects' wives had been notified in their respective homes.

The 500-meter compound where they were arrested was acquired by the family with the financial assistance given to them by government officials.

Jon Jon and Joel are had a chance to relive their sister characters in a movie about the life story of their mother, played by Vina Morales. The movie, reportedly received P180,000 each while the Contemplacion family was said to have been paid P2 million by Viva Films for the movie rights.

When the heroine went to visit the family during Contemplacion's 10th death anniversary earlier this year, the brothers admitted that they were now having a hard time providing for their respective families' financial needs.

The three said they had been working as ricevels drivers to provide for their children. They also disclosed that a few months prior to Contemplacion's execution, the Philippine government had given them a house and lot.

Contemplacion's only daughter, Raneli, works as a staff member for House Speaker Jose de Venecia. *With a report from Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Philippine Center bureau chief in Cavite, Southern Luzon Bureau and Cyrell L. Bondoc, PDI Research*

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'OPLAN KALULUWA'

'Let's not give burglars a chance to victimize us'

By Luige A. del Puerto

DUBAI, THE LONG WEEKEND, DO NOT leave your house unattended. If you must, ask a trusted neighbor or the village security officer to regularly check up on it. Needless to say, celebrate the yuletide and not up, if you would, moderate tempers.

These were some of the tips the police gave people who intend to leave their homes over the All Saints' Day holiday.

"Let's not give burglars a chance to victimize us," said PNP spokesperson Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil.

Last week, the police issued a letter of invitation to the citizens not to stay home, telling its personnel to come up with their own versions of "Oplan Kaluluwa 2001" (aimed to curb illegal stock, Bataoil said).

Invitees were told, among other things, to encourage non-stop groups on the outskirts (most of which are remote) open to conveyance and motorist assistance centers on major roadways.

Ground commanders must also discuss security arrangements with the officials of subdivisions. The police urged barangay officials to step up security patrols in their neighborhoods.

Four Brown City, where he posthumously promoted a policeman who was killed in a shootout with a robbery gang, PNP Director General Isfani Lomibao ordered police units nationwide placed on heightened alert beginning Oct. 31.

"Police units shall ensure that all areas of public convergence like cemeteries, but primarily, seaports, airports, malls, markets, churches, MRT/LRT lines and vital installations are well-secure," Lomibao said in a statement.

He also appealed to motorist rally organizers to "spend time with their families and departed loved ones during the (holiday) for the sake of all concerned," instead of taking to the streets.

"You will see (continuing police visibility) operations ..., Bataoil said.

On the other hand, the police had not received a specific concrete threat.

But Bataoil said the police would "always presume that members of the clubs and associations will strike when they are least expected."

Lomibao outlined and presented PO2 Emmanuel Magallon, who was killed on Oct. 19 when the police raided the hideout of the Operation Gregorio Barongis spoken, Tagum City.

Nine suspected gang members were killed during the shootout. They were believed to be behind the rash of robberies targeting convenience stores, delivery vans and commuters in the area.

House falls behind schedule on approval of 2006 budget

By Norman Bordadora

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES may not be able to transmit the billion-peso national budget for 2006 to the Senate as scheduled in its second week of November, but the chair of the House committee on appropriations vowed to crack the whip to censure his colleagues' unruliness in the next budget hearings.

Renouncing the 2005 budget will become an option only if the implementation of the expanded value added tax is suspended, Congressman Honrubia Andaya Jr. told the Inquirer in a telephone interview. He said the House leadership was determined to pass the budget measure "by hook or by crook" before the end November.

"Obviously we would no longer be able to pass the budget by mid-November," Andaya said. "So it is not yet carved in stone... But what is important is (that) we pass a new budget."

Senate ways and means committee chairman Sergio Osmeña had warned over the weekend that the Senate version of the 2006 budget might not reach the Senate as scheduled by mid-November as alleged wrangling among members of the majority over leadership positions in the House was holding up deliberations on the budget.

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Rx What is DYSPEPSIA?

Dyspepsia is a common stomach condition marked by symptoms of BLOATING, FULLNESS, GAS, BURPING and GENERAL STOMACH DISCOMFORT. Sufferers experience these symptoms over and over again.

Causes of DYSPEPSIA

Food stays longer in stomach

The stomach is normally in a state of motility, where the stomach propels food down the digestive tract through steady, rhythmic contractions. Dyspepsia is usually caused by dysmotility or when stomach movement becomes uncoordinated and slows down emptying of its contents. This results in symptoms of dyspepsia like bloating, fullness and gas.

Dyspepsia can occur any time, but typically follows meals, especially meals with spicy and fatty food. Stress and alcohol can also trigger dyspepsia.

Treatment

A class of medication called prokinetics can relieve dyspeptic symptoms by restoring motility/normal movement in the stomach. The most widely used prokinetic in the Philippines is domperidone, available in 10mg tablet form. Domperidone is best taken before meals.

See Your Doctor

If your symptoms persist, consult your doctor. Your doctor can help you manage dyspepsia.

By Dr. Sherrie Querubin-De Ocampo
Head, Motility Council
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Oil firms raise prices anew: Gas up by 50c/liter; LPG, 50c/kg

By Miguel L. Ha

[illegible] Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Caltex Philippines Inc. have raised anew the prices of their gasoline products by the common 1 liter and of their cooking gas by 50 centavos per kilogram, or P5.50 per 11-kg cannister.

Shell set its new prices on [illegible], Caltex at 12:01 a.m. Sunday, and Petron at 12:01 a.m. yesterday.

Total (Philippines) Corp. also increased prices of the same products by the same levels at 6 a.m. Sunday. Flying V and Eastern Petroleum Corp. also increased prices of gasoline, diesel and kerosene at 12:01 a.m. and 5 a.m. Monday, respectively.

Premium unleaded gasoline now retails at between P56.99 and P58.50 a liter, diesel has hit between P50.179 and P54.20 a liter, kerosene at P50.50 and P54.52 a liter and LPG at between P427.50 and P465.50 per 11-kilogram cylinder.

The oil firms cited yen hike as an [illegible] reason to their current [illegible] price [illegible].

But [illegible] position in the world market have declined. Data from the Department of Energy revealed the regional benchmark Dubai crude had literally dipped to an all-time average of $54.22 a barrel, more than $2 lower than the September average of $56.549 barrel.

The price of unleaded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) basis has risen by [illegible] petroleum products had also declined by more than $8 to only $75.96 as of as of the first 22 days of the month, from a high $75.463-a-barrel average last month.

The price of MOPS-based diesel fuel had also entered a [illegible] dropping slightly to an Oct. 1-21 average of $77.561 a barrel from $79.47 a barrel in September.

The international refined price of liquefied petroleum gas, however, skyrocketed to a historic high of $519 per metric ton (MT) this month, exploding the highest ever recorded a month ago since 1999 of almost $60 per ton. The September price was placed at $460.20 per MT.

The oil firms said they had yet to recover some of their costs they incurred the past few months, as their prices are able to [illegible] only reflect [illegible] in world market prices in their pumps.

Trouble at CHEd: Who is the head?

By Alexis Pupa

TENSION AND CONFUSION ARE BUILDING up in the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) as two of its top officials squabble over who is the head of the agency that oversees the country's centers of knowledge and wisdom.

The battle between CHED deputy director Julito Vitriolo and acting chair Dr. Cedric Pineda Lee over [illegible] Executive Order 566 [illegible] Vitriolo, himself concurrently an acting commissioner, last Sept. 26.

Vitriolo, a lawyer, maintains that since Pineda's term as acting commissioner has expired with President's appointment, he is just a de facto acting chair of CHED. But Pineda counters that while his term as acting commissioner may have expired, he remains acting chair because the President has not revoked his appointment.

The CHED oversees 1,939 colleges and universities throughout the country. It is responsible for setting policies for higher education that affect almost 3 million students and around 93,000 professors in both private and [illegible] colleges and universities.

In an interview with reporters, Vitriolo, who has been with the CHED since its creation in 1995, said that if Dato wanted to stay on, he should produce a valid appointment indicating that, "he should not stay a day longer or acting there."

Last Oct. 17, Vitriolo issued a memo to all CHED employees and officials stating Pineda's [illegible] with the appointment of his replacement and that Pineda's continued presence of his duties [illegible].

Pineda's lackeyers are reacting out an acting head of CHED "in a black eye for the Presidency" and would have a "negative effect on higher education." Vitriolo said, adding that the controversy was [illegible] function and work had already bogged down.

But in a separate interview, Pineda insisted that his appointment as commissioner and acting chair were two separate and distinct appointments. "It does not necessarily mean that just because I lose one appointment, I will lose the other," he said.

Pineda said he showed a copy of Vitriolo's memo to Jaime Laguesma, an undersecretary at the Office of the President, during a Cabinet meeting last week. "Mr. Laguesma got angry," he said. "Why should he know more than the President," Pineda said.

He said Laguesma had assured him that Malacañang would issue a clarification, but [illegible] come. Pineda said he would go quietly if Malacañang should so order.

The other commissioners have stayed out of the squabble.

Last Oct. 12, the CHED Employees Association (CHEDEA) wrote Malacañang for a clarification of the issue because "we are seen in a quandary." The Palace has not replied.

Pineda, a former president of the Philippine Christian University, was named acting commissioner of CHED last July 11, with a term that was to have ended 139 days later. But Mrs. Arroyo extended his term indefinitely last May 3 and restored him as acting chair.

A Dominican priest, Fr. Rolando dela Rosa, resigned as head of CHED last April after failing to obtain the support of both Malacañang and Congress for the dozens of low-dozen nursing schools which CHED considered sub-standard.

NPC raps Gonzalez for ban on reporter

THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB HAS ISSUED a resolution criticizing Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez for banning a Malacañang reporter from entering the Justice's office.

In media's decision, as stated in the resolution, stemmed from Cueto' reporting on what it inspired during a phone conversation between the justice secretary and Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio.

According to the NPC, Gonzalez's order prevented reporter Jessa Cueto from carrying out his job properly.

"Such banning of a reporter from entering the premises of [illegible] office is a clear suppression of Cueto' freedom to secure information from a public office, to the detriment of [illegible] to report the news accurately," the resolution stated.

The NPC also called the act undermining a justice secretary [illegible] and urge [illegible] media's freedom of expression.

"We hereby appeal to [illegible] Gonzalez to [illegible] apologize for banning our colleagues in the journalistic profession from his office, which is a contravention to suppression of Cueto' inherent right to get first-hand information from his beat," it said. — Leila B. Salaverria

We're no rubber stamp, Concom members tell media

By Nikko Dizon

IN ITS LIKELY DEBATE WITH any group, the Consultative Commission is not a rubber stamp body, its members said yesterday.

"We have to uphold our interests. We will not be swayed on an issue. Our rubber stamp of anybody because we have body (lawmakers in Congress) is definite on all the issues and wrongs we often see on record," said delegate Prof. Emily Mendezabal at a press conference shortly before the group left for Cebu City on the first leg of their nationwide consultations.

Its Bacolod delegate Angelo Agrupis, also said CEO of Agri-Agro Corp., went straight to the point.

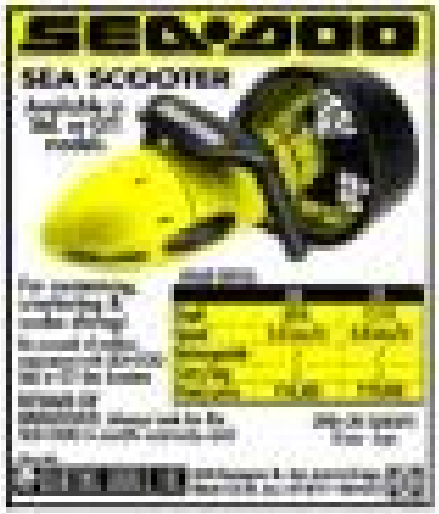
"I think the Commission has already accepted the fact that this is an independent body," Agrupis told the media.

"Basically, the 20 members of the commission who were appointed by President Macapagal-Arroyo left to fight over long controversial issues, that would also take them to the likes of Erap, Estrada, Binay, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo left to fight over long controversial issues, that would also take them to the likes of Erap, Estrada, Binay, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Cayetano, de Lima and Puno's Province.

Commission chair Prof. Jose Abueva left ahead of the group.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita arrived at the Mactan Cebu International Airport Centennial Terminal shortly after the press conference to have lunch with the delegates before leaving Manila.

Commission member Jaime Marty Yap, national president of the League of Barangays, had said even the weekend had the body "is an arrow that is a ribbon away from..."



GMA: No to snap polls, yes to coalition gov't

From page A1

on her constitutional measures.

In one of the meetings, Ms Arroyo agreed to at least one proposal: to put up a coalition Cabinet with opposition members.

The sources said the President met with Velarde twice after he left the Palace. He also met with Makati Business Club (MBC) and other business groups two weeks ago (see In Malacañang).

The influential leader of El Shaddai and the source insisted that the Catholic Church discussed with business leaders the possibility of seeking an amendment to the Constitution to pave the way for a presidential election in 2007, which would effectively end the term of the incumbent.

After the MBC meeting, Ms Arroyo met with Velarde during which the El Shaddai leader expressed to her the sentiments of the businessmen, an official who asked not to be named told the inquirers.

The President met with Velarde again on Friday, when she took the trouble of going to Velarde's Ingay-ingay Highlands residence.

The second presidential stop to Tagaytay came after Velarde spoke to the inquirer on Oct. 17 to denounce the police dispersal of a religious rally and to call for a referendum on whether the President should finish her six-year term.

"I'm look for at way out and at so to consult (Velarde) because of his position against the CPP (communist party/armed group) ," the source said, referring to the proximity of the Tagaytay Highlands meeting.

The government's CPR policy allows the police to disperse rallies without permits.

Banana republic

Another ranking official said the business that Ms Arroyo had met with Velat two weeks ago, but the source did not say what was discussed.

The first source said it was up to Malacañang to disclose what Ms Arroyo's response was to Velarde's proposal for an election in 2007.

"Basta ang sabi niya, ang mga negosyante, kung ano ang gusto nila, ibibigay niya. Kung ano ang gusto nila, gagawin niya. Kung ano ang gusto nila, ibibigay niya. Banana republic," the source said, quoting Ms Arroyo.

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Underestimated

Also Monday, De Castro rejected the 2006 proposal, saying it "has no legal basis."

He said the proposal did not sit well with him because 2006 underestimated him both as Vice President and as a person.

The people should first agree on amend the Constitution and change the term limits through a plebiscite, according to De Castro. Until the charter is changed, he said, he would remain "Vice President until 2010 as provided for in the Constitution.

"I am not a servant of one, two or 10 people," De Castro said. "I owe my position to the people who elected me. I have the right and the right to remove me or force me to resign but the people."

He said he would only take over the presidency if there was a vacancy.

Reaching out

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. accompanied the President to both meetings with Velarde.

"We met with Brother Eddie but I never met you, where," the Speaker told the business.

During the meeting, according to the Speaker, he told the President about reports in Velarde's proposal that would give the opposition a chance to be members positions in the Cabinet.

"We have endorsed in principle a coalition Cabinet because this is what will reach out to the opposition that would allow for a suspension.

"Since snap elections are not provided for in the Constitution, they thought that Congress acting as a constituent assembly would pass a ballot amendment ratifying immediately the snap elections," he said.

He said the meeting was held at the Citibank Tower in Makati and was attended by nine businessmen from the Makati Business Club, Financial Executives of the Philippines, Management Association of the Philippines and the Federation of Philippine Industries.

The senator, however, would not identify his source. But he told the Inquirer on Saturday night that the source was "unimpeachable."

When interviewed by the inquirer on Sunday night, Velat said he had attended several meetings with he was in Manila. He, however, would not say if one of the meetings was with the country's top businessmen. He added he was just a participant and did not initiate any thing.

He refused to divulge details of the meetings, saying he was not authorized to do so.

The businessmen asked Velat about his stand on snap elections. The prelate replied: "It is not in the Constitution." He said a "special law" was needed for that.

Vidal distances self from snap poll report

By Cornie S. Fernandez
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY – CEBU ARCHBISHOP Ricardo Cardinal Vidal yesterday distanced himself from reports that he was among those calling for a snap election.

In a statement issued by Msgr. Achilles Oalang, Cebu Archdiocese media liaison, Vidal said he the position of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) on the political crisis.

"The Archbishop of Cebu, Ricardo J. Cardinal Vidal, is disassociating himself from a newspaper report that he is one of those calling for a snap election," the statement said.

Vidal reiterated his call for prayers and solidarity among the leaders of the country, the statement said.

"The Cardinal also appealed for a way to political navigate, especially those that drag the names of bishops and the Church," it said.

The statement was referring to an item in the very yesterday quoting Sen. Sergio Osmeña III as saying that Vidal and Fr. Shalde leader Bro. Mike Velarde were calling for a snap election through a single amendment to the Constitution.

Osmeña said Vidal and Velarde had met with the country's nine top businessmen about "10 days ago" and asked them to lobby Congress to pass the amendment in the Constitution that would allow for a suspension.

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From Secretary Ignacio Bunye yesterday said that a snap election "is a sensible formula for a human republic where the next head will be the object of succeeding plots and intrigues."

Rallies and opponents of Ms Arroyo were calling for a snap election after they failed to oust her in the streets and in Congress.

The opposition has been waging a campaign to oust the President over charges that she cheated to win the May 2004 election. However, Ms Arroyo, whose six-year term ends in 2010, has denied any wrongdoing and refuses to step down.

That has led to a political stand-off, sending fears of a stability takeover.

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Principled cooperation

But during the subsequent interviews on Oct. 27, Velarde said he was dropping the term sooner than later in favor of the "more urgent" principled cooperation between the President and her critics and foes.

Velarde brushed aside questions about that touched of the opposition in the Cabinet would be dropped in the Cabinet would be dropped in the Cabinet, but he signing a document declaring she would no longer discharge her functions as President.

He said members of the opposition would be asked to sign a document that they would do no such thing, and that it would be signed by more than one million people—his El Shaddai followers—as witnesses. El Shaddai claims to have five million followers.

Environment Secretary Michael Defensor said he had "no problem" with a coalition Cabinet as long as the opposition showed enough good faith to address genuine reconciliation.

"The atmosphere is full of bad faith. We should agree to quiet down, anyway Christmas is just around the corner ... While the President is unsure about unity and reconciliation, she's eminently under attack," Defensor said.

Christmas holidays

Presidential political adviser Colonel Claudio said the President's hope were being pressured into bringing down the hammer against the administration because the Christmas holidays were just around the corner.

He said the Christmas season was a time when the mood of the nation was "up" giving hard information-making to harmony and brotherhood."

The statesmans gained by the Palace in seeking to amend the Constitution it also putting pressure on the anti-Arroyo forces as the advocates "legitimate constitutional and political reforms," he said.

Claudio also accused BMBE for giving De Castro an ultimatum to join the group. "Nothing can be more arrogant and presumptuous for a group like the Black and White Movement to give such an ultimatum to the Vice President," he said.

Puppet president

Partner Sen. Loren Legarda ruttered efforts by anti-Arroyo forces to oust Dr. Castro on the nation, saying he had no right to become even a "puppet president" after 2007 because his election was "dubious."

Legarda is contesting the results of the vice presidential election.

"Some groups want to make a puppet president out of Dr Castro by saying that she derived her lesbility and susceptibility on exploration," she said.

"But an administration under Dr Castro would never be acceptable to the people because only a legitimately elected Vice President, which Dr Castro is definitely not, can ever lay claim to constitutional succession," she said.

"Putting a book in every child's hands" has been the goal of AMI, but "books are only as good as the hands that hold a child in each," Bolipata said.

Teachers have a great responsibility to encourage the reading habit among their pupils, she said.

Delgado expressed hope that the conference, which featured education experts and inspirational speakers, would be of great use to the teachers when they return to their schools.

Speakers at the conference included many teachers Tina Monzon-Palma, Ateneo theater director Doodoo Paguntalan, stage actor Bodjie Pascua, and children's book authors Ramon Zamora and Mona Sta. Romana Cruz. **With a report** from Bel C. Cabayacruz Jr.

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power by

Organized by the nonprofit Ayala Museum Foundation (AMF), the conference gathered 130 public school teachers in Metro Manila to train them on how to promote the habit of reading.

"To be able to achieve a culture of reading, the community has to come together," Salonga said in his welcoming address to the teacher-participants on the second day of the conference.

"We must push parents to read more. And they must be seen while reading. They should give books to their children as gifts," he said. "Children interest to imitate. They follow what we do."

Modular library program

A government program to build more libraries across the country could further boost reading among Filipinos.

After stepping up the construction of school buildings in the past three years, President Macapagal-Arroyo is now focusing on building libraries equipped with personal computers to battle illiteracy in schools.

The President yesterday unveiled a P350-million GMA Modular Library program, which will begin with the delivery of 50 prefabricated libraries from 1,000 to 3,000 within the next two years.

Ms Arroyo noted that with the budget for public education still insufficient to cope with the increasing student population, a critical component of the learning process has been overlooked—the library.

Although it has been 16 years since a municipal library has been established in the country, the establishment of 1,000 libraries, only 500 have been set up—46 in 42 provinces, 49 in 100 cities, and 355 in 43,000 barangays.

The program is a joint undertaking between the Bases Conversion Group, one of the biggest bridge contractors of the government, and the Department of Public Works and Highways.

20-foot steel containers

Makiley Group will design and manufacture the projected 1,000 modular libraries using 20-foot steel containers at an estimated cost of P200,000 each, plus P150,000 worth of books and computers.

It will shoulder the cost of the initial 100 units while the DPWH will handle the balance of 900 units.

The government is also planning to seek the assistance of Philippine National Oil Co. in installing solar panels to supply power to the libraries, especially in far-flung areas.

The modular library program is patterned after the government's successful partnership with the federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce, which has spearheaded the construction of thousands of barangay schools nationwide at half the cost of the government's budget—P 1 to 1.4 million, two-classroom buildings costing P350,000 each.

Good story

Whether one first learns to read in Filipino, English or another language is not important, Bro Jess said. The joy of reading will motivate to learn it even if someone learns a second or third language, he said.

It also pays to teach language lessons using stories, he said. Children will always relate to a good story, and it is through stories that they best learn values like nationalism, he said.

If a country that has cultivated a culture of reading has a precious resource, Bro Jess said.

SAS president Margarita Delgado said the foundation was sending to major crowding movements within the education sector to make the Philippines a "nation of readers."

Established in 2001 and funded by Petron Foundation, SAS has actively promoted reading sessions in 414 schools serving more than 95,000 Grade 4 pupils and 1,351 teachers, according to organizers.

A book for each child

The foundation has also distributed some 180,000 story books all over the country.

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Show kids you read, parents told

From page A1

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Congress cool to call for early election

From page A1

Speaker Jose de Venecia said Monday "basic structural and large-scale changes" to the Constitution that would set the stage for a presidential election next year.

Not for one bullet change

"We are not after a one-bullet amendment that will only create false expectations," said De Venecia. He said the majority of lawmakers and local officials who signed a declaration supporting "large-scale Charter change, shift to one priority."

"We are for amending the Constitution to shift the sovereignty immediately to a parliamentary system and a unicameral legislature, the move to federalism, and after a transition period to expedite to local governments," De Venecia said.

Lawmakers said those calling for a snap election could have a serious problem.

They said the bid to impeach GMA had already failed, and she doesn't want to resign, not to mention that the VP doesn't want to take over. They may have an inopportune batch of them or kill them both in his able to have a snap election," Bunye said in a text message.

"While this is constitutional, this is also criminal. Dante, assuming it is a more viable option, would also preclude snap election since those who would be responsible for the senate impeach trial will be out of power power and give it to who ever they wish to lead the country," Lacson said.

"What I'm saying is that a snap election, while palatable to many, may not be a realistic option."

Santiago vowed to oppose any move to amend the Constitution to shift the sovereignty immediately to a parliamentary system and a unicameral legislature, the move to federalism, and after a transition period to expedite to local governments," De Venecia said.

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Agenda of Makati oligarchy

"It is constitutional evil to amend one provision for the sole purpose of accommodating the agenda of a special interest group, namely our Makati oligarchy," Santiago said, referring to "big businessmen" in Makati City.

"One Makati style group wants snap elections in order to oust the results of the last presidential elections. This is a few of the rich dictating to all of the poor of a third World country," he said.

Osmeña, Santiago pointed out, a snap election was worthless for an impeachment process "wrecking camouflage clothing."

"What the oligarchs did not anticipate was the reaction they are trying to achieve not, egotistically by snap elections," she said.

On top of this, the government would need at least P4 billion to hold snap elections, said Santiago. "If the Makati Business Club or any other group wants to spend P2 billion for a snap election, they should provide the money."

Sen. Manuel "Mar" Roxas II said he predicted that the government forces its exercise on problems that "continue to bedevil the average Filipino."

"It is not a question of whether there should be a snap election or not. I think that we should resolve the crisis at the soonest possible time, and even if we endeavor to do so, we remain mindful that the average person is suffering a loss of jobs, opportunities and economic weak economic growth," he said.

Joker hits fascist tilt

Sen. Jinkee Arroyo slammed the Black and White Movement as Dr Castro to withdraw his support from Ms Arroyo. The opposition is led by 31 former Cabinet secretaries and Palace officials who resigned in July and demanded that Ms Arroyo quit.

"I can neither believe nor understand this attempt to overthrow the people can be so irresponsible and opportunistic as to impudently give Vice President De Castro an ultimatum to distance and dissociate herself from President Arroyo, or else," he said.

"Pressure who have become undemocratic do give ultimatums. But these people are not democrats, they are progressives in their impatience turning them into fascists?" Arroyo said.

Arroyo said De Castro should ignore the group. "They want to run his political life. If he gives in now that he is Vice President, what happen if he becomes President? Uncheckd, they will swallow him alive, from a council of theologians and rule and enslave him from behind."

Free-for-all

The House minority said it would support a presidential election in 2007.

Rep. Robert Jaguiso said this would allow Ms Arroyo to seek a fresh mandate.

"If she wins, we will respect that," Jaguiso said. "We will no longer question her legitimacy" he said the following month in a "free and fair" election, adding that former Presidents Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada should be allowed to participate.

House Minority Leader Francisco Fuentebella believed Mr Arroyo should not run anymore. "Nobody speaking she can't run anymore. We should go beyond [her]. She should step down, have set and pave the way for a new leadership."

Fuentebella believed this was the best exit strategy that she opposition could offer to an "illegitimate" president, while the plan could a snap election was a "better alternative to the crisis we are swallowing in."

South Cotabato Rep. Darlene Antonino-Custodio said Ms Arroyo should support this proposal to settle once and for all the allegation that she had no mandate to sit in Malacañang.

Consider, resume

"We can't settle under a bloodending plan," said Custodio, adding that the opposition would introduce the amendment on the House floor if Ms Arroyo accepted the challenge.

Antonino also called for a top-to-bottom reorganization of the board-named Commission on Elections.

"If they resume Comelec, we will have a fighting chance," Bagtas said.

Partner Sen. Joker B. Arroyo, founder of Kilusbayan and Bantay Katarungan, also called for the immediate dismantling of the Comelec.

He said this is a "must" before any snap election or referendum is held.

"No election or electoral exercise," Salonga said, "would be credible unless the current Comelec is thoroughly revamped."

Inquirer wins 4 major Catholic Mass Media Awards

From page A1

technology allowed the media "unprecedented possibilities for good, for spreading the truth of our salvation in Jesus Christ, and for fostering fraternity and reconciliation."

Warning on misuse

But Bautista also said that the late Pontiff had warned that "its misuse can do untold harm, giving rise to misunderstanding, prejudice and even conflict."

Vice President Noli de Castro, a former radio and television broadcaster, was guest of honor at the ceremony.

RINGING CHIME Actress Jolina Magdangal "kiss Bradley" by Inquirer photographer Edwin Bacasmas.

Inquirer enters world of magazine publishing with joint venture

From page A1

chair; Dave Nibbe, president; Rob Bermudez, VP and general manager; Alex Sison, SVP and CFO; Paulo Prieto, president, Inquirer Holdings Inc., and Doris Bermudez, sales and events director of IDP.

"It's rare to have the combination of talent, resources and passion for the [magazine] business as we have for Ringo Inquirer Publications," said Nibbe.

"It's a symbiotic confluence of many factors. The boundless enterprises and resources combined with our people's skills, vision—and 'will,' the Lord's help—are could go far," said Bermudez.

IDP seeks to become the best and most influential media magazine publishing company not be country in the next five years. To achieve this goal, it will bring together the most passionate and respectable people in the field.

In the coming months, IDP expects to launch new titles that would expand and supplement the business's efforts to make it the most influential media establishment in the country.

15 Ateneans to be enshrined in memorial

By Fernando P Hulleza
Contributor

ON NOV. 12, IF A GATHERING ON THE ATENEO de Manila University campus at Loyola Heights, Quezon City, 15 men will be enshrined in the Ateneo Heroes Memorial.

Their names will be added to those of the 112 who have been enshrined there since 1999, the year then Ateneo president Fr. Florentino Cruz S.J. had a modest way memorial erected to honor the Ateneans who perished in the Revolutions of 1896 and 1898 and World War II.

Three Ateneo—Rafael Jones Nyalet, Ramon Iturregui and Francisco Perez...are among the present honorees.

Nyalet, who is currently at the helm of the Catholic Church's National Office of Mass Media, was a prisoner of war of the Japanese interned in Los Baños, Laguna. Through the years, he has imbued his students with heroic ambitions and a passion for excellence as he taught college, coached the Hail Mary Team (the Blue Eagles), directed plays and conducted the Ateneo College Glee Club.

Iturregui, former Philippine Provincial of the Society of Jesus, was arrested and detained for two months for taking part in a march protesting election fraud and violence committed by the Marcos martial law regime.

Perez was a guerrilla during the Japanese occupation. He was with the Manila Combat Regiment in the Bataan Military Area headed by Gen. Alejo Santos.

To be enshrined with them are two other living Ateneans—Fr. Alejandro Roces and Ambassador Maria Moss.

Roces who considered the youngest guerrilla officer, at 15, he joined Marking Guerillas in Ifugao during WWII. A few years ago, he fearlessly faced hardened criminals, spoke to them about the importance of Literature in the widest and was able to restore the original memorandum of Jose Rizal's Mali Hit Tinggero. El Filibusterismo and 80 Others adios that they had stolen.

Moss served the country during and after the Pacific War, joined President Manuel Quezon's organized guerrilla force and founded Banking on Initiative Foundation to alleviate the soldiers' poverty.

Among the deceased honorees are those who fought in Bataan and walked the Death March—Antonio Molano, Pablo Bautista, Antonio Abreu, Ramon Francisco, Oscar Goseñada and Ramon Diaz, who was tortured by the Japanese for being a member of an intelligence cell that relayed information about the Japanese to the Americans in Australia through the infamous Ariadne.

For the first time in the memorial's history, four young Ateneo graduates will be enshrined for their contributions during the martial law years. They are Ferdinand Abesa, William Begg, Antonio Cristobal Jr. and Abraham Iturralde Jr.

An exhibit of memorabilia belonging to the honoree will open at 1 p.m. on Nov. 12 at the Rizalidrom. A documentary on the legacy of Ateneo will be shown, with Ricardo Abad as speaker. The ceremony honoring the honoree at Bellarmine Field will follow at 3 p.m.

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CHR says no legal basis for CPR, Mendiola ban

From page A1

week yesterday to the Manila city prosecutor's office and filed charges of obstruction and illegal assembly against left-wing lawmaker Liza Maza.

There is no legal basis in the declaration of Mendiola as a no-rally zone, as well as in the requirement for protesters to seek a permit to rally, to the unlicensed preemptive response (CPR) policy, to the use of fire trucks to disperse protesters, and Commissioner Wilhelmina Jurdeleza.

Soriano said this resurgence was touched during a commission discussion of the Oct. 14 clash of 67 camps rally near Mendiola.

"We've asked Mayor Lito Atienza by what particular declaration was Mendiola turned into a no-rally zone, but as of this time, there is no declaration, no legal instrument," he said.

Even if such a declaration is issued, the CHR can still contend that such an act of the local government violates human rights, Soriano said.

He pointed to a Supreme Court ruling concerning a case where a local ordinance was used to ban protests outside the US Embassy.

Unconstitutional

"Once an ordinance nullifies such a constitutional guarantee on peaceful assembly, that local ordinance is all only seven as a regulatory power of the mayor for not in any way ruled as prior restraint to peaceful assembly," he said, referring to the high court's ruling.

Soriano also said the CHR believed the use of water hoses against the protesters was unnecessary.

"There's more ongoing negotiations and the crowd was not unruly," he said.

But Supt. Arthur Pagkalinawan, chief of the Manila Police District (MPD) Management Division, said the 10,000 demonstrators "deliberately" and "recklessly" refused to obey a rule to march on Mendiola. He said their permit was for a rally at Plaza Miranda and Quezong Bonifacio.

The protesters were calling for the ouster of Mr. Arroyo for alleged cheating last year's election. She has adamantly denied the allegation.

Charged were party-list Representatives Satur Ocampo, Liza Maza, Crispin Beltran, Rafael Mariano and Teodoro Casiño, and rally leaders Nicanor Reyes, Carol Araullo, Mahmood Santos, Antonio Tinio, Ronald Llamas, Joel Candelaria, Arman Arevalo, Robert de Castro, Cristina Palabay and Raymond Villanueva.

Truncheon for wanna cops

Supt. Pedro Bulaong, MPD director, also announced yesterday that truncheons would be issued to members of the women police auxiliary force.

"At least 50 of our policewomen, including uniformed women, from Southeast [are doing this], consecutive Friday rallies so we believe it's only fair to also give them protection from unruly members of the militant groups, believing that is a minimum ... ."

Women police protected only by shields had been deployed during protests to deflect criticism of police brutality.

The MPD has also filed charges in connection with an earlier protest against Ms. Robert Reyes, Sen. Jamby Madrigal, former Vice President Teofisto Guingona, party-list Representatives Rizal Bondoc and Ocampo, former Pangasinan Gov. Oscar Orbos, Wilson Fortunato, Barry Delfin, Sandra Cam and Santiago.

They were accused of obstruction and violations of the Public Assembly Act—each of which carries a prison term of one to six months.

Madrigal's security aides Napoleon Edmedio and Reynaldo Rimando, who were caught on video with hand guns, were charged with illegal assembly.

Intolerance fuels strife

Even so, Rep. Antonio Cuenco said Malacañang was "absolutely wrong" in taking an "iron hand" against protesters.

"The mindset of power should be kind and gentle ... History is replete with cases where intolerance spawned the causes of internal strife and eventual downfall of even the most powerful regimes," said Cuenco, a pro-Arroyo lawmaker from Cebu.

In Davao City, Mayor Rodrigo Duterte lambasted Ms. Arroyo's CPR policy, even calling those who declared it "legal" as stupid.

Duterte said the President should respect her critics even if she could best ignore criticisms and outrage from the public. He said he never encountered the term CPR back at law school and doubted if the issue even existed in law books.

The mayor has allowed protests in Davao City.

"I'm as long as what they are doing are peaceful demonstrations, they can do it even without asking for a permit ... the people have the constitutional right to assemble. The people have the freedom to express [themselves]," said Duterte, also an Arroyo supporter. With reports from Jaziel A. del Puerto and Michael Lim Ubac in Metro Inquirer and Jeffrey JE. Tupaz, PDI Mindanao Bureau

ANTAGAT policewomen use the strength of their group during a mock rally as another officer tries to break close line. The Manila Police District has ordered they be issued truncheons after some of the women cops were injured in Friday's dispersal of demonstrators.

MICHAEL LIM UBAC

Republika ng Pilipinas
Kagawaran ng Pananalapi
Kawanihan ng Rentas Internas
Quezon City

October 24, 2005

ANNOUNCEMENT

Notice is hereby given to all Internal Revenue Officers and Others Concerned that Revenue Regulations No. 16-2005 dated September 1, 2005 (Consolidated Value-Added Tax Regulations of 2005) was published on Friday, October 21, 2005, Manila Times. For more information and updates, please visit the BIR website at http:www.my.bir.gov.ph or DOF website www.vatreform.gov.ph or call the BIR Contact Center at 981-8888.

(Sgd.) **JOSE MARIO C. BUÑAG**
OIC-Commissioner
of Internal Revenue

PSI - Oct. 25, 2005

Opposition leaders attend 'unity Mass'

By Christine O. Avendaño

IT WAS A SIN TO PRINCIPLE APPLIED [illegible] when he is unprepared. Appear when you are not expected.

Apparently using that principle laid down by the 6th-century Chinese military strategist, prominent opposition leaders yesterday surprised the evening to confirm rumors of the start of government.

Then, unexpected appearance prompted Malacañang officials to deploy more presidential guards and armed policemen near the Palace gates.

Leaders and some members of the United Opposition (Uno) were to the vicinity of Malacañang to attend a "Mass for Unity" in the San Miguel parish church, just beyond the gates.

After the Mass, the "invaders," led by Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, stayed long enough to talk with reporters and leave for picnics.

They called for the establishment of a countrywide to march to the to the Arroyo administration.

Malacañang gave the impression it was not in the least bothered by the presence of the Uno leaders seen inside.

"This is a free country, for as long as they don't tie up Manila and can turn the business and safety of the metropolis into an instant calm, just wants to go about their jaywalk," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.

"Maybe if we are here this close, the Palace could better hear us," said former Sen. Mercedes Teria, whom asked why the Uno leaders chose the parish church for its Mass.

Teria, who has gone back to being a councilor after his stint in the Senate, said there was significance to holding a Mass at the church named after the archangel St. Michael.

He said St. Michael was once close to God, having been the one chosen to go after the followers of Lucifer.

St. Michael might just help answer the prayers of the opposition.

Many are suspicious any holding Asks pagbabag nina si Pangulong Gng. pahuggan mga mga Jejomar Binayko ha sukupan vandor more weight. Maybe he can subpoena the Lord. Wow, gibson Santo to the Filipinos"," Lotto said.

With the Arroyo administration bent on stopping the opposition from holding rallies, Lotto said they were now turning to holding Church masses and rosaries in different parts of the country to peacefully the word against the government.

Declare . . .

Pantanosa A2

[illegible] and Ellie Pamintuan charging both in the Supreme Court with yet another contempt petition.

"It does not add for a public citizen [for him to sue a president ignite], my father would find it very hard to refuse," Luis Juan Binay Jr Sanchez, son of the ousted President, told the [illegible] yesterday.

Pamintuan, who had won notoriety as "the spoke boy" for claiming to have masterminded the spreading of metal scraps on Edsa in a protest action, filed an urgent petition asking the high court to declare the presidency vacant on grounds that President Macapagal-Arroyo had become "permanently mentally disabled."

Labeling himself a "victim of constructive martial law," Pamintuan also asked the court to call on the military to hold snap elections, instead of the Commission on Elections.

The elections were provoked by suggestions from several religious and civic leaders for the calling of special elections in 2007 to resolve the country's seemingly intractable political crisis.

Binay is said his father, under house arrest after he avoid his plunder, was now "physically incapable" after his successful knee surgery.

Emotionally recharged, too

Estrada, ousted in a 2001 "People Power" uprising, is also now "emotionally recharged" after everything he has gone through in his political career, she said.

On top of that, Estrada said, his father was now "spiritually ready ... [having gotten] closer to the Lord because of his detention."

"The next elections will be a good opportunity to choose the country which Mr Arroyo has mortgaged," Pamintuan said.

He said his father was ready to serve the country again "in whatever way he can."

But "the people should be the ones to convince him to run again as president," Estrada said.

Estrada's seemingly restored interest in overthrowing Mrs Arroyo, contrasted with the apparent disinterest he showed earlier this year.

In July, amid calls for mass actions from Bayan to lead the opposition, Estrada had said he was no longer interested in regaining the presidency but would support whoever was chosen by the people.

"I categorically state that I am not after regaining the [on stolen years of my legitimate presidency," he said then.

'Protector of the people'

In his petition, Pamintuan urged the Supreme Court to also declare the vice presidency vacant and to call on the Armed Forces to serve as "protector of the people."

He filed the petition on behalf of his group that heralds the Discovery Crusade of the Philippines Inc., and the "suffering people of the motherland: ... [and the] oppressed masses."

Pamintuan dismissed the apology Chief Mr Arroyo made to the nation in July for calling an election official before the proclamation of a winner in the 2004 polls was a plot or guile to [illegible] to re-election.

Pamintuan also described McArroyo as "most notorious thief [earlier to the land."

"Many people want to knock her," he said.

Pamintuan himself tapped for the presidency but was disqualified for being a nuisance candidate.

In July, he drew headlines when he said he had written the US Embassy offering to send his family [illegible] to Iraq.

Pamintuan said that since Vice President Noli de Castro is not the ranking men of this country, "it goes without saying that he, too, was a part of the derailment of our democratic electoral processes."

Once the two top executive posts have been declared vacant, Pamintuan said the high tribunal should call on the military to hold snap elections.

"Since the Comelec is perceived to be a cause rather than a blessing to the people, the most acceptable and viable option in for the court to act Article II, Section 3 of the Constitution to authorize by declaring that it is time for the Armed Forces to perform its constitutional mandate as protector of the people," he said.

Former Sen. Aquilino Salonga, in a statement, said an immediate revamp of the Comelec was a "must" before any snap election could be held.

He also does would be candidate unless the tainted Comelec was thoroughly overhauled, said Estrada's daughter Jinggoy Estrada's candidacy in jeopardy. With a report from Jaclyn T. Mallari, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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The WORLD

Editor Lorente B. Gueco

No survivors in Nigeria air crash

LISSA, NIGERIA—ALL 117 PEOPLE ON BOARD A Nigerian airliner died when the Boeing 737 crashed and disintegrated in flames shortly after takeoff from Lagos airport, the government confirmed on Sunday.

Brownskinned and burned body parts, Gandoye Kingsworth said engine parts were strewn over an area the size of a football field near the village of Lissa, about 50 km north of Lagos.

"The Federal Government announces with regret the unfortunate air crash of Bellview Airlines ... which resulted in the loss of the 10 all passengers and crew on board," a government statement released late on Sunday said.

A senior police official at the scene said: "The aircraft has crashed and it is a total loss. We can't even see a whole human body."

Bellview Airlines flight 210 left Lagos at 6:45 p.m. (1845 GMT) on Saturday night on a scheduled flight to the capital Abuja and lost contact minutes later during a heavy electric storm.

The pilot made a distress call after takeoff, indicating the plane had a technical problem, a source at the presidency told Reuters.

The plane crashed not long after, leaving a smoking 20-metre scare in the marshy earth, uprooted trees and blew the roofs off nearby houses.

A navy human remains, clothes, bank cards and a hand-held mobile weighed in the sodden earth. A check for 940,000 naira ($7,300) from the evangelical Deeper Life church was one of a number of personal papers found in the smoldering wreckage.

The plane was carrying 111 passengers and six crew, the Red Cross and the port Authority said.

A US official confirmed that a US military officer was aboard the aircraft. Diplomatic and airline officials said it was also believed to be carrying a top official of the Economic Community of West African States, a Nigerian presidential aide was Belarus and a German.

"It would be a miracle if anyone survived," one man at the crash site said.

Distraught relatives waited and poured at Lagos airport as a Bellview airlines official read out a list of passengers. "The list may not be entirely accurate because names are sometimes transliterated between people in Nigeria in the official said.

State television said the survivor would hold three days of mourning for the dead.

The route the airliner was taking is usually travelled with planes of flights each day between the port of Lagos—one of the world's biggest oil-ex—and Abuja in the heart of Africa's most populous nation.

Aviation analysts said the fact the aircraft was at least 20 years old may have been a factor in the crash, but asked why there was so much confusion and delay in finding the wreckage.

In the early hours after the crash reports conflicted.

SPIRALS: Smoke from the plane can be seen in the background as a rescue worker in Lissa, Nigeria, Oct. 23, 2005, walks past a burned-out car at the crash site in Lissa, Ota in southwestern Nigeria. Oct. 23, 2005. All 117 people on board the Boeing 737 died when it crashed and disintegrated in flames shortly after takeoff from Lagos airport, the government confirmed on Sunday. AP, Reuters

Government television reported that Nigeria Broadcasting Commission said it would suspend the operations of AIT television for showing explicit images of the crash scene and delivering what it called unsubstantiated information on the disaster to the public.

Bellview Airlines is a privately owned Nigerian airline and is popular with expatriates. It recently began international flights to Accra and London.

In Seattle, Boeing spokesperson Lee Strader said the company would work with the US National Transportation Safety Board if the board was asked to help with any investigation in Nigeria.

He said the 737 was the "workhorse of the world commercial jet fleet." Reuters

Wilma strengthens, lashes Florida

KEY WEST, FLA.—A STRENGTHening Hurricane Wilma lashed southern Florida on Monday as it soared toward the densely populated Miami area after pounding Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula and killing 17 people on a rampage through the Caribbean.

In one point the most intense hurricane on record in the Atlantic, Wilma weakened after hammering Cancun and Cozumel for three days with punishing winds and rains, destroying homes and ruining luxury hotels.

But the vast and menacing storm's maximum sustained winds strengthened to 193 kph overnight as it roared toward Florida, where dozens more residents largely ignored evacuation orders. Wilma was a Category 3 storm, capable of causing extensive damage.

"We were hoping that it would weaken some before it makes landfall," Max Mayfield, director of the US National Hurricane Center, told Miami's WPLG television. "We're not certain that will happen now."

The center of the storm was expected to come ashore in Florida around daybreak near the wealthy city of Naples on the southwest coast.

Hurricane-force wind gusts from the large storm were already hitting parts of the lower Florida Keys, with a gust of 122 kph reported at Key West, the hurricane center said. Reuters

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3 car bombs hit Iraq cities; US deaths rise

BAGHDAD—AT LEAST THREE CAR BOMBS and several roadside bombs in US-and-Iraqi-occupied Baghdad and the northern city of Kirkuk on Sunday killing at least eight people and wounding dozens more, Iraqi police said.

The past 10 days have seen a citizens' lull in violence despite a constitutional referendum on Oct. 15 and the start of Saddam Hussein's trial for crimes against humanity. But 85 commanders have warned of more attacks in the run-up to Dec. 15 elections. On this first Iraqi-run election will try to obtain.

The US military death toll in Iraq is approaching the psychological landmark of 2,000. Attracting attention on the invasion's one-month-more-than-2-1/2-years after the US-led invasion. The toll stood at 1,996 on Sunday afternoon.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Washington was determined to have about the insurgency and build Iraq into a stable democratic ally.

"It is absolutely the case that you have evil men, violent men, who were determined to try to throw this off course. You don't haven't been able to," she told BBC television in an interview.

Britain's ambassador in Baghdad urged the Shiite-led Iraqi government to mount an inquiry into accusations of security forces torture. Londoners "deeply repulsed" against minority Sunni Arabs—who are blamed for most of the insurgent violence.

In the city of Saadiyah, Sunnis, a car bomb killed four people, including two police officers, when it exploded near an Iraqi police patrol in central Baghdad. The blast also injured 14 others, both police and civilians.

Another car bomb in the northern Hamra district of the capital targeted a US patrol of their Humvee armored vehicles, wounding to Iraqi police who said at least three US soldiers were wounded and one Humvee was set alight. There was no immediate confirmation from the US military.

Iraqi police also reported clashes of US soldier was killed and one wounded when a roadside bomb hit a US patrol in central Baghdad. The US military had no immediate information.

Britain's ambassador to Iraq, Sir William Patey, said Iraqi police and security forces would be more "active, especially on internal issues," than his predecessor's administration.

"It will certainly be more active than that of Ambassador Foster," he said.

Khalilzad sought to dissipate strong fears that his envoy, which puts Iraqi governance and the presidency in the hands of the Shia and Sunni party, may derail the coalition.

"I believe the coalition will take form and Ahmed Chalabi will continue to be an influential politician in Poland," he told Knight-Ridder in the previous parliamentary bank served as deputy speaker.

AP

ILLUSTRATED THAI
Wiraphorn Angkasuk, a 18-year-old Thai woman, displays a salamander tattoo during the MBK Tattoo Contest 2005 at a shopping mall in Bangkok Dec. 24.

Brazil voters strongly reject gun ban

SAO PAULO, BRAZIL—FROM sprinkling water displayed by revelers in the backrooms of the taverns, Brazilians voted decisively on Sunday to keep gun sales legal in the country's only the world's highest death toll from firearms.

About 64 percent rejected banning arms sales in the landmark referendum, the electoral court said, with more than 95 percent of the votes reported 120 million votes counted.

Only 36 percent supported the ban, even though more 36,000 people were killed by guns last year in Latin America's largest country. Poll results were expected all on Monday.

"We didn't see because Brazil does like guns. We love because people don't have confidence in the government or the police," said Denis Mizne of anti-violence group Instituto Sou.

Many voters had expressed concerns before the vote that a ban would only affect honest citizens against heavily armed criminals. Public confidence in Brazil's police force widely seen as unfit, slow, abusive and corrupt.

"Only criminals—it is not going to end violence," said Ana Augusto Pires, 60, who voted against the ban in São Paulo's wealthy Jardim Brasilândia favelas, where high walls, electrified fences and private guards protect residents.

In São de Janeiro's Rocinha shantytown, scene of a raging gangland turf war, Carlos Eduardo Pereira, 30, a construction worker, said he was voting for the ban.

"I saw for the ban. I saw for life. I've already seen kids hit by bullet here," he said.

Reuters

Conservative Warsaw mayor wins Polish presidential runoff

WARSAW, POLAND—TOUGH-talking Warsaw Mayor Lech Kaczynski of the socially conservative Law and Justice Party consistent beliefs—to own Poland's presidential runoff, propelled to victory with the support of the nation's poorer voters and farmers.

With 96 percent of the votes counted from Sunday's runoff, Kaczynski led rival Donald Tusk of the pro-market Civic Platform party 54.1 percent to 45.9 percent, according to the State Election Commission.

Kaczynski's victory dents the way for the start of coalition talks between between the two right-of-center parties which are allies, and have said they intend to form a government together after signing a combined majority in the Sept. 25 parliamentary election.

The 56-year-old Kaczynski told Monday's issue of the Rzeczpospolita daily that he plans to quit as Warsaw mayor after the city's 2006 budget is drafted, but he gave no date. Kaczynski is to be sworn in as president on Dec. 23.

AP

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

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Hardly a snap

THE PROPOSED SNAP PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION looks like a quick and easy solution to the current political muddle. But a closer examination of the proposal will show that it is not as easy or as tidy as it seems.

For one, it will be opposed strongly by President Macapagal-Arroyo who will consider it as tantamount to a call for her to resign. And we know that she has consistently resisted all calls for her to quit the presidency.

EDITORIAL

Second, it is opposed by the President, we can be sure that it will be opposed also by her allies in Congress, and to some if Congress were to convene itself into a constituent assembly the body will veer down the proposal.

Third, assuming that the snap election proposal is approved, it will take time to clean up the Augean stable that is the Commission on Elections to assure that a clean, orderly and credible presidential election is held. A constitutional amendment may have to be made or a law passed to insure the integrity of the work done by the Comelec.

Fourth, billions, if not tens of billions, of pesos will be spent to achieve just one purpose, the approval of a so-called "bullet amendment" to the Constitution. If we are going to spend billions, we might as well amend all the provisions of the Constitution that need to be amended.

So there's the new proposal for a snap presidential election, and there's the "old" plan to amend the Constitution and shift to a parliamentary-federal system of government. The great majority of those in government appear to be in favor of the old proposal. Even Malacañang has called for a national debate on the proposals to amend the Constitution.

The same objective—to get the President to run her term—can be achieved by having the entire Constitution changed. It may take a longer time, but the same aim can be accomplished. We're not saying what she's entitled to, but Charter change will give her a graceful exit, and she can be expected to convince her political allies to bring it about with a minimum of resistance.

The late dictator Ferdinand E. Marcos did not have any problem with calling a snap election in late 1985. He was being interviewed on American television by Ted Koppel when, suddenly, out of the blue, he announced that he was calling a snap presidential election, ostensibly to prove that he still had the support of the great majority of the people. He won so sure that he could again manipulate the election to serve his ends. But events later proved that he was terribly wrong, and ultimately he was driven out of office and forced to go into exile in Hawaii.

President Arroyo may be sealing a lesson in Marcos' experience with a snap election and can be expected to resist the snap poll proposal. As of now she enjoys the upper hand, even in the midst of a shaky and troubled political situation. So why risk everything on a snap presidential election which she could lose?

We've said this before: Now is an auspicious time to amend the Constitution, a long, public document that needs many amendments. But let's not do it piecemeal, just to satisfy certain sectors that want a quick solution to a festering political problem. If the majority of those in the government and the majority of the people want a shift to the federal-parliamentary system, then let's begin working to bring about that change. A thorough, complete examination of the Constitution should, in the long run, be more economical, workable and feasible than a piecemeal revision.

Threat to Hollywood?

IT HASN'T BEEN MORE THAN TWO YEARS SINCE THE IN-sulted its 19-year boycott of Unesco, the US organization he-ad-mentor science, culture and communication. On Monday the organization again chose to break with the other 189 UN member countries.

FOREIGN COMMENT

The condition is over international convention for cultural diversity, an unconventional and politically correct treaty, one would think. Who could oppose, in 2005, an agreement to nurture local artistic and cultural expression? Who really seriously believes Powell or Bush, British television drama and...Norwegian movies...are evidence to Hollywood's imperialism more murky TV and Britney Spears?

The answer to the first is demonstration.

(Abridged from Globe, Mercury)

Listening to whimpers

VIEWPOINT

Jose L. Mercado

"DO YOU HEAR THE CHILDREN CRYING O-H?
Tell Me Do you know why?
—Elizabeth Barrett Browning

The most cricket noises that overwhelm in breakfast and the evening news today come from children who claim they want to go to.

They clamp off the Marcos's counsel to stay "in-service." Instead, they'd implore the Secretary across Mendiola Bridge, preferably before Malacañang's Gate 7. When media shut off the cameras, that's "most."

The Bill of Rights protects even high-decibel petitions. But what's the point out that whimpers of children and those peddled into use done?

"The Philippines remains a source, transit and destination country for men, women and children trafficked for sexual exploitation and forced labor," the 2004 US State Department report on "Trafficking in Persons" says it.

Philippines are often "lured abroad with false promises of legitimate employment," it adds. "In commercial sexual exploitation are destinations the regional Asia, the Middle East...Africa, Europe and North America."

This ebony clandestine trade persists although the Philippines has exhibited more place laws to implement the 1989 Rights of the Child Convention and similar treaties.

Republic Act 7610, as jailed former Rep. Romeo Jalosjos can attest, exempt exorbitant life terms on those who abuse kids. Cebu City's term "Second Chance Center" homes provides separately from adult offenders.

Controversy here is "highly protective of human rights," the US report notes. Indeed, many share Nobel Laureate Subramanyan Tagore's insight: "Every child comes with the message that God is not yet discouraged with humanity."

But deeds lag behind aspirations. "Mindanao has become one of the battlefields for open hostilities of armed conflict," a United Nations Children's Fund fact sheet states. "Children are trafficked to major cities and neighboring countries, particularly Malaysia."

Precise figures are difficult to pin down. The Inquirer has short estimates 60,000 to 100,000 are locked into prostitution rings, some in tourist areas. Subsistence? All or know a "child abuse exists a shadow the length of tomorrow."

Endemic poverty, joblessness, the aggravation duets, flabby rules of law enforcement and any toxic mixtures to significant trafficking activities. "The Philippines' placement on Tier 2 Watch List is due to its failure to show increasing efforts to meet its conditions."

Straightforward solutions in our system, says its chief victims, dogged defender of abused children. It's a problem that neither economics can't think. Its explains in his gospel: overdrives:

"The most pernicious problem...is the common practice of local officials and citizens to 'settle' a complaint of child rape and molestation with money.

"Poor confused parents are pressured by police and community leaders to drop the case. They get a cut from what the perpetrator pays...The child is ostracized and feels ashamed...and raped by parents. This change must start first in the minds of the government officials and the parents."

With little government help, Father Calbon and his Preda Human Rights Education team have helped rescue 2,827 kids, trained 1,000 officials and 1,192 teachers so far. "They are the first line of response to child sexual abuse," he explains. "Officials seldom know their duties...They tend to go for a soft settlement. By involving the law, obligations and answer responses, we hope we've laid the groundwork for effective help."

Contact Preda home for abused girls. Get professional assistance. We offer maximized protection of the child. This is essential when the child is rarely and willing to file criminal charges against her abuser."

In Father Calbon's experience, "most facts are wrong; the first trauma on the people that a hurting friend's child will cure her." "Fear to meet up parent when the child is abused by the father. "Not all mothers are willing to believe their child. The fear of scandal, legal consequences, shame and anger can block a mother from responding to the cries of her daughter."

This shows bringing out children is a true elsewhere. Then, "after split, killed in around 2000, "State of the World's Children" report as "Childhood Under Threat."

Predictably, it says, more than one billion children are denied a healthy and protected upbringing, as pledged by the 1989 Rights of the Child Convention.

The report pinpoints seven basic "deprivations" that lash children and hobble their futures: inadequate shelter, lack of safe water, sanitation, health care, adequate food, schooling and information. Many conditions either rarely down there or are worsening.

Poverty is not monopolized by developing countries. United's report points out. In 11 of 15 industrialized nations, the proportion of children living in low-income households dropped the last decade-but-more.

Reform of government is the first up to the sooner you's standards suffer government damage contribution. In turn, it derails progress toward human rights and economic growth.

For children here. "The quality of a child's life depends on decisions made every day in government offices and in the halls of government," then United Executive Director Carol Bellamy said.

"If we fail to nurture childhood, we will fail to nurture larger, global goals for human rights and economic development," she said at the launch of the report in London. "As children go, so go nations. It's that simple."

(Email: jose_mercado@email.com.ph)

Not quite a success

I HAVE SOMETHING INTERESTING TO SAY ABOUT ARC. I somewhat Wednesday night. The members from the south fact-as-typed by the side of the road somewhere in Los Baños, while their head...ers rolled ominously with subsidence and allowing them to go forward. It was harsh time, and the happy farmers brought out food from their bundles. It was simple fare: a few pieces of kakanitsuan and fare and boiled eggs. They hoisted on the hood fast out on banana leaves with their hands.

Across them, some meters away, the cops who were blocking their way had gotten hungry, too. When their food came, they squatted on their side of the road and ate furiously. It was simple fare too, not unlike the farmers': a few pieces of kakanitsuan and boiled eggs of rice. They ate with their hands from plastic plates, throwing their used wrappings.

The sight drew home a point to me, which was that except for the soldiers and the cops, the cops were pretty much in the same boat as the rebellious farmers. Remember the cops' objection: Need we be explained why? Who has the...ear of the protest against GMA loves reduced to cop income either? That is how it's been ever the police force—with a few exceptions—and why leaders trailing barbs on why we looked white and who has loved the most abused. You have to look during a rally, you'll never be able to pin-of the blame on one or the other. You'll have an end of incidents of Kawalkacan from both sides. You see a rather boring blockade and, or on one occasion, a bus being assailed by stoned by the cops while pinned to the ground, your blood boils. But you see a cop, now or moment, bleeding from an open head wound or a gash across the face, and your blood boils just as well. That cop, women or man, also has a family to get home to.

Who's the more abusive? That's an open-ended, interminable and irresolvable debate, one with no answer to argue for either side. That should make us wonder about the wisdom of challenging the whole system of Caliboard

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

Presumptive Secretary with more office-mind at "...welcoming Mendiola." While "welcoming Mendiola" does have wing to it, suggesting as it does not just exclaiming the function of speech and assembly but a piece of history itself, it doesn't have to take the literal form of storming the bridge to definition of 1986. It can function as a symbolic or more indelible gesture or protest, a poetry reading, concert, fast, or an almost sticky connection to the vicinity out, reverberate louder than the din of a march.

Indeed, a huge rally at Plaza Miranda, the original symbol for freedom of speech or assembly, might do the trick better. You can almost "welcome Mendiola" by way of Plaza Miranda in the same way that Mendiolas' assured to Batasan and Cornejidor by way of Leyte. Symbols for their very definition do not have to be literal.

The editors assumed their rally last Friday as a one-note, notwithstanding that they never got as set foot on Mendiola. Well, not quite. In fact, I would think the whole lack of physicality "retaking" Mendiola has become counterproductive. At the very least, I don't know what's the sense of assuming of the power rally the other Friday, under the pretext that Bayani is crying the behind the trenches, notably after the strikes. I don't know in Del Pan the rallies aren't blaming rather than deglorifying the opposition forces of EPR.

And we don't mind that idiot PSP NCR Director Hidel Quezon if there's any sufficient right there. He kept warning of violence but Thursday coming from communist infiltration of the protest rinks when in fact only an AFP agent, who usually got booked to clutch, was shown to have done so of DMG to throw the rallyers can get ugly too. That subverts the effort to show government has become more fascistic. The "fight for Mendiola!" can take on the aspect of being a macho contest, and to go by this photo-ut tabloids and AM radio are using, it has "di-mabuting," "di-pagsuko," and so on. Those phrases take a life of their own in the public mind.

At the very most, it removes GMA from the picture. You have opposition rallies ousting people's rule in the most obscure, you will have GMA laughing with glee and asking who is the next one stupid in this pesty way. Guys are not the enemy. You put them there to "defend" Mendiola, and they will do it with the same resolve people have to defend the barricades when the rallyers will try to "retake" it. And I don't know that the public will see sympathize with those more than the rallyers. The attack on Mendiola will not invite images of an ensuing victory or defying martial law; it will remind the public of Edsa, and not in a good way at all."

In the end, all you'll have is a triumphant GMA descending on the scene of slaughter (Applause) speaking through her easy-to-remember as if this, precisely, as she did last Friday passing medals on her loyal defenders and listening to the cheers of the crowd. The cops do not get to feel a sense of solidarity with the rallyers, with whom they share a common poverty and a miserable life, they get to feel a sense of solidarity with GMA, with whom they are made to share a common enemy in the rallyers. Of course, she need not even share with them Lea Salonga, and who should we?

It's time we restored a perspective on things. Cops are not the enemy, a concept to Mendiola calling to. It was Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita who reminded us of a favorably lost need, when he spoke of the need to protect Bro. Eli Soriano's security aide who was caught by cameras with a gun in the water-cannoned prayer rally. Ermita said: "He may say he's sorry, but he still has to pay for it."

But, of course, Bro. Eli might be but to never recovered by saying, "I am sorry."

Gumption

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cantiveros

SOMETHING IS FISHY MANY TIMES THE dismissal of the Blue Ladies and White Men members of Vice President Noli de Castro is taken over the reins of government by Sec. 10 (b) (1) Art. suddenly reimbursed them as a Vice President, but is unable to declare an Arm party on. The resignation and, with right concerns of this group? Is some De Castro is found an "authentic authority" as "succession procedure" until a special election can be held. But if he wasn't open, PGMA would declare him President and appoint him as Vice President, and would assume Senate President Franklin Drilon acting president rather still, he is the speech of former President Gloria Arroyo. (MFM's decision.)

But what is PGMA to make of her temporary designated and by other authority? Except for the above 15, who gained notoriety when they resigned en masse as GRP, most RPMP members are unknown names who can't even vote on a hanging's decision. Maybe (or probably) Drilon, as Senate President, will be appointed by a presidential decree in 2007 with a new, Master of Loyalty, by campaigning for a "Drilon surrenderee" to the Commission to allow as unscheduled decrees.

* * *

The perpetual of various leaders, such as former President Fidel Ramos, to cut short GMA's term in 2007 so that she would agree only to a single term. Ramos' reasoning is that such a drastic reading is an a right-option. But definitely then she doesn't want it under the conditions set by RPMP, as there are entitlements and a sure-fire formula for anarchy. The Palace's answer to this proposal: If GMA is willing to resign, she can't do it now. The Constitution would not then have term in a transitional government and the people would notify it, then GMA is willing to accept it. So it is Cuarto, the people would have to "manufacture" a crisis that would cause their term should compel her to do it. If the assembly and among the people, RPM cannot have their hands on a direct plunge.

Where does the "social unbalance" of RPM people come from? I recall that about two years ago Pinto-Erap dynasty's term, when Gloria Rasto delivered an unexpectedly blistering speech right in Malacañang.

* * *

This near embarrassment doubtless led many to turn to Rasto. If despite all the political instability, the economy has grown and the peso remains one of the strongest in the region, think of how they would perform if all our political leaders and executive orders of society could unite and pull together. That perhaps an unfortunately alternate what former Senate President Jovito Salonga calls the "utopian" pursuit of our people and even some political scientists. As Peggy Peterlitz, one of our civil society gurus in his Sunday's *DBM* does that unified the many representatives of the valley in Manila, moral, democracy is an ideal that can be achieved only if we have spared the various calamities that have hit other nations in recent months. Or and all those special blessings from God should be read as signs that we ought to work harder for our impoverished people.

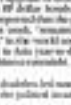
* * *

During the 14th anniversary of the Local Government Code, DILG ordered the release to a monthly cleansing record of governments of P17.5 billion, representing that portion of the Internal Revenue Allotments withheld from LGUs in the Estrada administration. Three governments in the countryside are meant to use the funds to achieve the purpose of LGC, spend 4% billion as seed money to a new and poverty management in the countryside called Idlot Access. At the Manila celebrations said the Palace Binay, Antipolo Governor Casimiro Ynares, Jr., Cebu Governor Gwendolyn Garcia Ynares, including Iloilo Gov. Neal Tupas, who is said to be close to Drilon. He related that the outstanding act of the local town was "Bitoy Cabal, former Cagayan."

In particular, the local funds to the countryside as well as for "greater powers" through Charter change. GMA is obviously solidifying the support of LGUs, a major bulwark of her political campaign against the opposition's impeachment. Indeed, the Union Automobile, Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines president declared LGU the "true champion of local autonomy" that evening up the countryside should go beyond Malacañang. We hope the DILG will not spread chain pan-loan funds already and with greater accountability. It should be their way of repaying GMA's unstinting support.

Weekend in Mindoro

AT LARGE



Rina Jimenez-David

I WAS IN MINDORO OVER THE WEEKEND, together with family and friends—old and new—on the invitation of Jolly Teng, of whom I have written a few times before, as the owner of Calapan Watersports, a private beachfront that supplies the Mindoro capital with clean and safe water.

But it seems there's more than just water in Teng's island there, as she and her husband Andy have invested over the weekend on an island off Calapan that Jolly and he rode Lulu even and see as a private getaway, we also took advantage of our trip to visit the site of a planned housing project that Jolly and Andy Lobigs for which Teng's foundation is providing the seed money.

The proposed site is in Naujan, Teng's birthplace. The housing project is actually a collaboration among the Mindoro Southwest Foundation, Inc., which Teng chairs, and the local government headed by Mayor Boy Mendoza, the landowners and Gawad Kalinga for Children.

Within current development package, a lot of our town issues, most of them federally, have been addressed by the mayor. Much of the site, he says, is fairly level and its location is promising.

So when Teng approached the mayor about his intention to fund a housing project with Gawad Kalinga, Mendoza set about looking for a feasible site. Fortunately, there was no shortage of the site much in Naujan were already privately owned and the municipal government had no property to spare. Fortunately, the town found of agreed of land that had long owned owner and operated by the Mendoza family, the possibility of donating the property to the project.

* * *

NORTH PANAHUS for the project, too, the one-hectare lot belonged to another congressman Naujan family, who made the land available. Indeed says he had to do only minimal persuasion since before "tiking kalang" de la lente, another of the many activist police and now popular celebrity Ed Sabello de la Santa, before they "bought in" to the project.

But this lot in question was owned by a relative who resides in Olongapo, who was called on to sacrifice the land to make room for the new concrete houses, now penned in bright pastel colors. When we asked if the Mangyans really preferred to live in concrete houses in the City building and the wonderful land really suggested for new durable structures, since many of their bright huts had been blown down in a recent typhoon.

But the residents had also said that they preferred to live on their present site, where they have much closer access to land to harvest and plant to a payay animal which all household nutrients revolve. Some families have also taken to building smaller huts beside their concrete houses, which seem to be reserved for cooking and sleeping.

* * *

OUR "tour" of Naujan's OLT villages also served to showcase the potentials for tourism in this area, which offers much other resources than the beach. Besides the popular water destination of Puerto Galera.

Joining us for lunch at the Naujan town hall was Mindoro's youngest and most lovable Governor Antan Panlilio, who also happens to be my cousin. Over lunch, he told us of his plans to build a road, the province spoke of his desire to distribute to develop his province's tourism industry.

In his sights, said the governor, is the development of Bulalacao, the southernmost town of Mindoro, which boasts of white sand beaches with white sand that, he says, is of the same consistency as that of Boracay. Numerous islets also dot the waters off the shores of Bulalacao, and there are worth developing and promoting as well.

Of course, the governor is aware of the fact that the Tingi have bought. The largest one Tingi says he is considering developing into a resort, while the smaller one houses a hotel is a private retreat with many amenities but available nonetheless for rent. The latter is owned by Tingi's ex-wife, which would it is in I have an abiding fear of deep water.

Still, I am at least from that one of my accomplishments may the weekend was successful in bringing the citizens between the two groups of friends. Both Tingi's groups are equally quick and intelligent—it hats that just might rid me of any aversion to the deep.

The return

PERSONS OUT ON THE STREETS IN THE MORNING rushing to work, or in the mall which I'm having my afternoon coffee, I am often greeted with confused and clouded looks—the kind that you would expect to see on someone who has witnessed an apparition. It doesn't matter who is on—my mom's best friends, current events, or perhaps, neighbor from our old subdivision—their question is always the same: "Why did you come back to the Philippines after living in the United States?"

It's not an easy question to answer. My return home was not something my family and I could have foreseen when I left for college in the New York City. I was 18 years old then and boarding-office was excited to leave Manila to settle in love can my own American Dream in the Big Apple, where I became co-captain of my university dance team, performed in the world famous Apollo Theater in front of dance icon Bob Fosse, and graduated with honors. Friends Erich, Amund with my Filipino diplomats and the brains self-confidence of youth, I really navigated through urban life in New York, Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. for decades all these, I longed for home even if I was unsure whether the Manila of my memories was still intact.

Time has a funny way of transforming us to political identity. I was a home was geared by the last-to-last phenomenon sounded and the nervous anniversary my people's lives to their continually gathered on holidays time, corrupted by our land of cousin's pseudo-apology has exhausted from the thought of living yet another People Power, my desire to my associations that were no less annoying with each another. I was a Filipino in America, but I was not a Filipino to consideration the possibility of a revolution breaking out in the streets when making plans to meet with friends. But there was something life-affirming in wrestling it all settled, not only on television but on the streets, making to-see lazy dinners time conversations with family. Because I can home, I didn't have to go online to read about it in the local news or see a call would possible in the dialogue because I was here to see it happen.

But the first time in years, I celebrated my dad's birthday with him, my nieces and I'd set my distance relatives in Baguio. It felt incredible not to let via that PLDT television commercial where the miserable daughter makes that tear-jerking, long-distance call to dad (reminding you two older brothers how to do from the latest Gucci), but instead to greet him in person without cookies and a kiss.

When we blew the final birthday cake evening meal, I thank God not only for the sustenance we receive, but also for the company around me. Gone are the days of having an overstated despair—an unexpressed yearning for that moment—alone in my condo apartment, as until other friends exchanged their own stories of their weekend's with their many made from freshly ground peanuts and other secret homemade additions, unlike the powdered supermarket variety we normally assign the fill that often disappointed.

It may be surprising to learn that many others are returning home. Many of my peers are coming back to set up their own businesses, to become hobbies to those or people dear to their hearts. Others are returning to raise their children in the familiar homes of Montgomery or the Antipolo School, respectively, or (in those Peter Pan) believe to take a role in close-ranging career in their life. When I see those talented men and women sat at night in Greenbelt, in St. James Parish in Alabang, or Ayala, that what's happened to my dream to expand and travel in Southeast—we often get much closer to home. Many of us, in fact, are looking to say a word about our careers because of an unspoken preferential thing that can only be comprehended after you've had taken of the American Dream, only to realize that there's nothing quite like the Humble Pie from home.

One of my dearest friends is preparing to leave for the US next year, to begin her residency as a doctor in Illinois. I count on her to be a source of information on what to expect when in this massive but impersonal, instead of the sense the will like by near is an affluent Midwest suburb, who will go home in that SUV with their both businesses each newly-added in their wallets. But I know there to ask her my way would be still, ask. I know why she wants to leave, and perhaps I would, too, if I only resigned on my own terms. I was averaged at P750 to $1,000 a month as a self-employed physician—wages no American high school graduate can get working as a neighborhood GAP store.

But if I leave her on all, she like me, will long for Manila's flaws, one that she could visit on into a acceptable order. She will see, with the perfect vision that only hindsight can offer, that all the opportunities in the third connections can't manage to keep you from remaining home.

My doctor friend also has one weakness that she needs can't live on home and that she absolutely must have close ex-ex email, the Philippine mango, or explosively sweet and minimalist. And in Chicago, they don't grow them like we do.

Lucky Home, 24, residing a break from her non-profit work as a business owner. She is based in Makati.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your letter (limited to e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and/or years enrolled in or graduated, the position/service holding and the company you work with. Contributors to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

YOUNG BLOOD

Cathy Flores

We need to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? The weekend Youngblood page is where we invite you to express yourself. —Ed.

THEY SAID

LOVE HER

"Lucinda has always been used as a leverage against me."

—Sen Sig Ejercito, denying "blackmail" against Pres. Estrada, after the government recommended the sequestration of the stocks that Ejercito's ex-wife Lucinda Ariman took to manage on condition not of Senator, the Estrada

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Silence is saying yes to injustice

LETTERS

LUMEN CONTRADICTIONS ONLINE, NOVEMBER

In the struggle, prolific Fr Bobert Reyes, being named three-during their peaceful protest on Mt. Jun October 15. I mean, others are a dangerous like most in that group, I start to the light through expressing that historical oppression. I cited one of sclerosis for their courage, and the pains of the struggle for justice.

I cited only a couple of very that I wasn't there. I'm so in the know how has I shared in their defiance of some services. Yes, some are not theirs. What government represents the rights of people to assemble and express grievances, that's television in our book. When government is ineffective in providing for the poor, and unable to working for a just sharing of resources with everyone—and that, to me, is a war of the starving people. For me, to handle and, to the most kind of violence. I question, not only the legitimacy of the present government, but also the inherent inhumane wishes of the socio-political and economic systems that it promotes and perpetuates.

People of both cannot remain silent when confronted with these oppressive powers that seek to subjugate—no, destroy—the rights of citizens wanting to voice their concerns and problems against poverty and injustice. It reminded me of the early years of Christianity when believers were thrown into the lions' den for defying Roman emperors' edicts.

Politics is not a specialty for the realm of what is spiritual, for spirituality deals with such international issues as measures of oppression and violence. Good governance is imbued with the moral responsibility to stand for what is just. It is time to not merely talk but do the stories that is it, a love. Once the same upholds unjust laws, the Church cannot be quiet because the Church has gone through the experience of unexpressed people in its silence.

I agree with Father Reyes when he says in a text message about the forty-plus of the protestants: "We stood as just and are." Yes, we pray and we also act. That is genuine faith—the holiness of which is expressed in the willingness of our supporters, pickets and meetings and action in the concrete expression of our values, principles and faith. Otherwise, a brave would mean collusion and implicit agreement with the powers that suppress our people. Silence means saying yes to injustice.

—REV. BIEBEL L. MOSON,
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THE COLLAPSED building of Ward Hotel after a strong earthquake hit Baguio City in 1990.

President by default, Marcos reincarnation

I AM JUANITO MARIE DE CORRADO DE Quiroz volcano and I can't help but agree with him that Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is the president by default. Because there doesn't seem to be any other viable alternative to her. I agree also with him generally that this is no reason to tolerate her presence. If given a real, concrete opportunity to be "removed" from office, I might even remove her from office. I might even consider doing so, but in hypothetical it fits quite that I am—like the rest of us—I would do it in fear of public censure, for fear of what the neighbors might say.

I am also grateful that the "bets" that caused the senators' class to GMA. It is also because we are thankful that we aren't get Erap back's approval in amending GMA without a suitable replacement? I have a thoroughly mixed feeling that this is so. Because I hate to admit Hudson's line: "Better terrible evil you know than terrible evil you don't know." But maybe you're right. We have a lot—in fact, we have a lot—to lose if we were to let Erap back in power.

Now, I'm not sure if I can put the person of the late President Marcos, and because is severely opposing her. Remember those days when there were harassment who thought they'd be with his as long as they didn't support Marcos? Remember the Legazpi? How much more will it take before GMA decides to swallow all the bitterness in the country? The signs are all we blatantly clear. Some is to repressing itself, and forced Marcos to a shadow administered to GMA. Power to dearly becoming more and more unconvincing to GMA with each passing day. The differences is, another false revolt will simply not work this time. I shudder to think what sort of violence some people will have to resort to in order to undo the "Freedom Base."

I was 12 years old in 1986 when I came to Edsa with my family. I'm 31 now, my job, and have little hope of seeing this show of my own—nor with the present state of the nation. I won't be marching to Edsa this time. So I'd like to pose the question to us all: What can we do, what should we do?

—ROBIN FELIPE HERNGER
(mobinfelipe@yahoo.com

Learning from Pakistan's experience

THE WORLD HAS SHOCKED WHEN Pakistan, together with Afghanistan and India, has the headline after a 7.6 earthquake hit the Kashmir region, killing more than 30,000 and injuring an estimated 60,000, including for the number of missing people. It was disheartening to see the logo of a school box preceding them as Religious Healing in America seems daily. Other dollars showed the sense in the lives of survivors in the midst of great wreckage.

It comes to mind that a similar tragedy could also hit Metro Manila. Issues of strong two major tectonic plates—the Pacific and Eurasian plates—the Philippines experiences about 4.5 earthquakes daily to varying intensities.

A study on recent earthquake effects in Metro Manila, the "Earthquake Impact Assessment Study for Metropolitan Manila," looks into a scenario of a 7.2-magnitude earthquake in the Valley Fault (formerly called Marikina Fault). This could cost some 35,000 lives and some 114,000 lives in Metro Manila alone, including the destruction of 175,000 buildings plus the schools and damages that could be caused by fires, not to mention damaged roads, bridges, ports in the North and South harbor, large reservoir and water supply systems.

The question is, are we ready for this possible big quake? Is the government doing its work to prepare for this possible nightmare?

Philippine experience shows that the government's response to disasters is unsatisfactory, rushed-oriented and inadequate. Lack of people's participation results in wasted resources and inappropriate projects. The people affected are usually seen as helpless, needy "victims." They are usually viewed as passive and recipients.

In what seems to be another man-made disaster, the current political and economic crises aggravate our marginalized inhabitants' vulnerabilities to disasters. Bird-type hampers the immediate delivery of relief, while graft and corruption deters funds from where they are needed, to reach the pockets of some authorities.

Hollow statements cannot be prevented from releasing her tension. But the impact of disasters can be managed and reduced by adopting a community-based approach, involving the entire participation of communities vulnerable to disaster. It is possible to build disaster-resilient communities as our organization's experience in some communities have shown. Only if the government changes the way it works and deals with disasters, the Philippines could be another Pakistan should the big quake come. It could even be worse here.

—CATHERINE SOLVERES,
advocacy officer,
Citizens' Disaster Response Center,
72-A Timog Street,
West Triangle Homes, Quezon City

'Wild, Wild West'

TODAY, I SAW A WHITE CHARIOT WITH MY Pathfinder with plate # HIZ 167 equipped with an illegal police siren (using siren) in front of Jollibee in Arlo-Aranque Ortiga Avenue around 5:00 p.m.

There are so many crimes can visit police stores. I have compiled a list of the ones I can see the most using these police cars:

PKF 447 Mitsubishi L300 or Nissan Liberty
SBH 203 Nissan Patrol, black
HEF 974 Ford Expedition, black
HPZ 711 Honda Accord, Gold Blue
PBR 734 Daewoo Prince, white
DBL 403 Nissan Cefiro, gray
HEF 911 Ford Expedition, black

It is truly frustrating and confusing as to the policemen, while policemen engage in criminal activities. Wow, it is really a "Wild Wild West" moment here in the Philippines.

Can't we do something about the crazy situation?

—K. SAMPIA,
(ghkmail@gmail.com

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and articles in the Inquirer, you may write to the Reader's Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send it by e-mail to reader@inquirer.com.ph or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager numbers or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Martial law again

I AGREE THAT IT IS BETTER IMPOSSIBLE for Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to declare martial law, but who needs to declare it or not—we can do the reasons like a dictator: a pro-GMA judiciary, legislature and military, coupled with the issues we mind of voters to participate in governance, we all can unite to win the country like it is under martial law.

During the Marcos years, our leaders did not protect their duties because they covered in fear. With martial law, they were forced to cooperate with the dictatorship.

Today, our leaders are not performing their duties in exchange for huge political favors. GMA can do it that they get their payoffs to win their cooperation.

So what's the difference between a declared martial law where there is only one decision and an undeclared martial law where there are many principals and accomplices?

—DANNY LUC,
dannyluc2000@yahoo.com

Socio-political concerns to resolve if we must end the nation's plight

THE SAD PLIGHT OF OUR COUNTRY, expenses and will persist unless we resolve certain socio-political concerns.

Mandate: Broad-sensing of bad news. It does really "responsible journalism" when almost every day we read in the newspapers, we see TV and hear on radio media saying that bad news? It is because bad news sells a lot more than good news! In the third place, there is no more bad bad news.

Sensationalizing: We ought to respect the customer of any television as matter often. There is no use in having to "sensationalize" stories. Viewers will see that were closed. Who shall we believe then? Subsequently, the nation's people will lose confidence in the mainstream media and the majority party out of power at all costs. Otherwise, who appears to be sincere at first glance but one is left with power-hungry deep inside, like to any show-offs or they satisfy have the people as be their patrons, and then statements to declare at the long, legislator, there are no permanent friends and permanent enemies, only permanent interests.

Social: On reporting is not much drama movies films. Television or whichever are a "jail" nowadays. The sequence does about them is they only indoor officers, especially among the poor. They can't watch any more than a few days. The reporting way. What good is presenting the people every evening? Are we only natural of indulging in real-life predicative activities. Meanwhile, show-biz people were big artists and are in the news. Is there more matter for issues up of making people cry?

Differentiation: religion from church or class. Religion is having genuine faith in God and not doing wrong to fellowmen; it is not indulging in name-calling, or worshipping icons, or making a breakdown from interpreting the Bible as if one is already saved from his sins by that, or being politicized, or preaching against other groups.

—MICHAEL DAVID S. CUEVAS JR.,
70 Donnabe Pepe St.,
Loyola Subdivision, Marikina City

InqBox

Do you agree with the dispersal and use of water cannons against a procession by the clergy and citizens in Mendiola last week?

I DON'T MIND. I am shocked to see dispersal of the peaceful rallyists in Mendiola. You police would as just as effective as water. Why be thirsty as to disperse them to such a violent manner? What a shame.
—James Philip Barbosa, 19, OJT/BPO

yes, it would be less violence using water cannons than firing bullets.
—Jovielou Lucharoque, 18, n.c.

NO. Those are not living THINGS. Why PRAYER RALLY? Let's separate. The water will STOP. Still a WATER LAMAN should NOT use FIRE.
—Ricky Jaba, 35, quasi-entity

Using water cannons is just weakling of water. Just spray it rather than it right. We have a lot of water in our country. Why not use it?
—Jonathan Ramos, 19, student

SURE! Why not? Let it fly. Police only armor they want to do. I don't agree with the dispersal and use of water cannons. It was a prayer rally.
—Jessica Lim, 45, C.Comm

they use guns against. I hold only at police situation. It's not attack the church. Officials ordered they want 2 days. I not for this.
—K. Rod quijot, 18, highschool/19

Government's use of water cannons is [illegible] police officials is reasonable.
—Rhoda Dawela, 30, Business owner

It wasn't a procession. Then a group of "Iglesia ni Cristo." Pero no choice ha sila nun. Always their way lol. Unconditional. Loudspeakers...
—rose lee ha, 31

Hindi. Subli hindi ito simbol proseso—maiintindihan sana pi sitwasi nito.

—Jeffrey Baghala, Trading

yes, I agree with what the police role. See the streamers and the banging are not actually doing the procession
—Margaret Villaberde, 29, sugar city

definitely not! Because kami as Filipino kasi just like people who commanded of use of water cannons should not go, or else be fined!
—gary ringcon, sugar city

NO WAY. We have a right to peacefully assemble, and all we

[illegible] Pilipino ang mamitas at magsagawa ng mapayapang protesta. Ang paggamit ng mga pulis ng water cannon ay di tama... ay nakikinig ang kalsada dito sa Pilipinas.
—Ronaly, [illegible]

Your message to the 4 Filipino hunting champs: Brian Viloria, Rey "Bonsai Boxer" Bautista, Bobby Pacquiao and Rogelio "Rocky" Bonifacio, Brian & Paulina Montanez, Ronny & Bobby Gilbert na MANGANO UNG BAKLA SA MUNDO. THEY ARE KING KONG. Dito Pilipino!
—jose ramano, 63, surigao city

You make every Filipino proud of it guys, I hope it can't lose I work hard & succeed and fortune.
—Luciano B. Pantilo, 29, ofw japan/on vacation

You have shown that being a good boss to this nation can be achieved through clean determination and honest hard work.
—JAMES MONTOS, 41, inquirer

You have done great honor for our country. Rain makes us proud of your accomplishments.

—eduardo cuyno jr, 33, mercantile

The glossy finish of the cover makes reader proud. Like Pinoy! Buy it to take it Pinoy proud! Pa-bonus, our pride, Pinoy proud!
—jay ian juan, 33, cardenas, tarlac

stop pulling quiting stupid! You've proved that with hard work, learning, skill, dedication and perseverance. That YES, the Filipino can! I'm glad as Filipinos, the boys bring the all we need, especially the entertainment. Cheers. Mabuhay, kayo!! :)
—rose, cardenas, tarlac

Dear Readers, feel free your comments, suggestions and views on today's issue or how it was delivered. Tell us about the stories you are interested in and the things you want improved in your favorite newspaper. Text (0920.2888 and include the name/city/municipality and (AREA) 891 [2nd] or 8897 (Globe). The online keywords are [illegible] in the logical subscription.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2005

ENTERTAINMENT

Edna Emene G. Velarde

Cebu movie wows Tokyo

By Marisol R. Cruz

JIMMIE TULANA AND JEFFREY JEFFERSON, lead actor and director of the movie "Misteryo Pa" (One Moment More), were the country's representatives to the 18th Tokyo International Film Festival (TIFF).

The film has lasted all on Saturday with a lavish red carpet ceremony at the Roppongi Hills in Tokyo, Japan.

"It was a great feeling to represent the country and speak on its behalf," the cinema

Across the NATION

Log ban now in force in 15 regions

By Blanche S. Rivera

A LOGGING BAN IS NOW IN force in all, except one, of the country's regions after the Department of Environment and Natural Resources added Davao in the list of regions where the harvest and transport of logs are prohibited.

The DENR decision leaves Caraga region as the only source of timber in the country.

Environment Secretary Michael T. Defensor ordered the suspension of all operations plans and permits to cut trees and transport lumber in the entire Region 11—covering Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Davao Oriental and Compostela Valley—effective immediately.

Defensor also prohibited the processing or milling of wood in processing plants 16 to 20 issued DENR regional directors to assign one forest guard in each wood processing plant to ensure compliance with the order.

"All Davao and Pentro take led to implement any of the foregoing orders shall be automatically relieved and shall be charged administratively," Defensor said in a memorandum to DENR officials in Davao dated Oct. 30.

Pentro and Davao are provincial and community environment and natural resources officers. They implement DENR policies in the field.

Defensor expressed confidence that the furniture industry would not be adversely affected by the new order because it was "not the season for harvesting timber anyway."

He said in his memo that the suspension of logging in the region was "because of the documented illegal logging cases."

The memo's subject was "implementation of anti-illegal logging measures" and did not declare the imposition of a log ban, but the four orders it stipulated had the same effect.

"The memo is very clear ... there's no way around it. They have to stop everything. The effect is like a log ban," Mike Tamondo, deputy head of the DENR's Task Force Saggit Bisasic, which apprehends illegal loggers, said in an interview.

Tamondo said the suspension of all Integrated Annual Operation Plan, Forestry Utilization Permit and Multi-Year Operation Plan, and the prohibition on the issuance of certificates of timber origin and certificates of lumber origin, which are needed in the transport of logs, effectively stanched all logging activities.

Cavite gov wins in appeals court

By Leila B. Salaverria

[illegible] Maliksi won a major round in his battle to keep in office after the Court of Appeals granted his petition for preliminary injunction against the Office of the Ombudsman's decision to suspend him for six months.

The CA's fourth division issued its ruling yesterday, the last day of the 60-day temporary restraining order earlier issued on Maliksi's petition to suspend without pay.

The TRO was issued after the CA found that the Ombudsman ordered the suspension "without the normal evaluation or deliberation."

It stemmed from a graft complaint that Cavite Gov. Jesus Nicier Remulla filed against Maliksi for allegedly purchasing P7.1 million worth of tax withdrawn public bidding.

The Ombudsman's order [illegible] to expire shortly after it was issued. Maliksi had refused to vacate his office and turn it over to Remulla. The governor's supporters also held rallies outside his office to protest the order.

According to its ruling, the CA granted the preliminary injunction because the status quo must be maintained while Maliksi is questioning the Ombudsman's decision.

"Petitioner complains of the Deputy Ombudsman's order for his six-month preventive suspension without any valuable argument, his persona petition might be mooted. There is a compelling need for the status quo to be maintained to the immediate so pending a decision on the merits," the decision read.

The CA also said that contrary to the respondents' claim, it was the proper forum for [illegible] from the decision of the Ombudsman in administrative disciplinary cases.

It also junked another claim of the respondents who said the suspension order had already been consummated, citing construction [illegible] from the Department of the Interior and Local Government that showed it had complied with the order.

Question of the Week

Do you agree with the dispersal and use of water cannons against a procession by the clergy and citizens in Mendiola last week?

Senders of texts published in Tuesday's **InqBox** *will each receive an "Inquirer Shirt!"*

YLLANA with a foreign guest

Cebu movie wows Tokyo

(continued on page 17)

producer, lawyer Joji Alonso, told Inquirer Entertainment yesterday. "We took the opportunity of inviting everyone to visit the Philippines, especially Cebu."

"Milmar Inc." an unconventional love story of a Cebuano law guide (Milmar) and a tourist (Ara Mina), is featured in the festival's non-competition section under the Made in Asia category. Other local films showcased under this category are Joel Lamangan's "Rubber Tsunso (1942)" and Cesar Montano's "Daughter in Italia" (The Call of the Heart).

On Saturday afternoon, reporters, photographers and fans all gathered on Kyoshibashi Street, the main entrance to the labyrinth complex of Roppongi Hills, to get a glimpse of and talk with the attendees of the premiere, the producer said.

"First, was the red carpet thing," Alonso said of the 200-meter-long red carpet. "It was like this Cinderella ... Ligaya. There were four stops only. The viewing public and media lined at the side of the streets. The first stop was with the TBS to go on broadcast. The second stop was in front of a lobster full of photographers. The third stop was at the movie theater. But there all we were asked to say a few words."

"Milmar Inc" was shown at 6 p.m. But they in the Philippines in Midnight.

"Arthur invited us the screening so he could sit at the back and listen to the audience. As soon as the movie ended, the questions and answers [portion] followed," Alonso said. "I thought it would last for a few questions and that'd let us go, but we stood in front of the audience for more than an hour. Our Japanese interpreter told us they must have liked the film... So there is one we will ask a number of times."

She added: "They said [Cebu] looked magnificent on the big screen. I just hope the forthcoming digital film, 'Volcano' (The Collector), which Arthur and I will collaborate in, will also get as positive reviews as [critics showed]."

Another bit of good news: "Signal" director Eric Lamasan was a non-stowaway saying that the award-winning director, Jessica Lanay, won the Best Short Film Story award at the 2008 Los Angeles Screenplay Conference-Grand Shorts Film Festival.

Lamasan, editor Hilmer Dayot and lead actress Iza Calzado attended the awards show in Los Angeles.

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

Witness predicts 'jueteng' return to gov, big gangs

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE 'JUETENG' WHISTLE-BLOWER who tapped Bilibinto Gov. Armand Sanchez as one of the country's biggest gambling lords said yesterday the officials[illegible] to reclaim the operations of illegal gambling in his province.

"Sanchez knows we will [illegible] to still bet," said Wilfredo "Boy" Mayor, a turncoat lord for many years, during the 4th anniversary of Archbishop Oscar Cruz's Sacrificing Priests' Labor in Jueteng.

Financier

Mayor testified at a Senate investigation of jueteng and pointed to Sanchez as one of the country's biggest jueteng financiers.

Sanchez has repeatedly denied operating jueteng, saying in previous interviews that small-time operators are running illegal gambling in the province.

"Big-time jueteng operators like him [Sanchez] would still bear money so they allow the small fry to take over in the meantime," said Bilosa.

The witness said while jueteng appeared to have been suspended in Batangas, it was just a change of time before bookies would reclaim their turf.

Another angered anti-jueteng cop Edward Hagedorn after he called the Puerto Princesa mayor a "mad dog" following a report that the illegal numbers game was still continuing in Batangas.

Hagedorn has challenged the governor to a duel. The governor kept his silence over the challenge.

Quoting information from jueteng workers, Mayor yesterday confirmed that jueteng operations had shifted to the "guerrilla" type, where bet collectors move from place to place to elude arrest.

He said he was still the one in Luzon despite the feud. It climaxed when Sanchez publicly [illegible] for Hagedorn to stop illegal jueteng.

In Bicol, he said underground lottery was thriving in Batangas.

Warm

Mayor said the guerrilla type was worse than mainstream betting because under it, no drawn were conducted and winners were selected only by the operators.

"The poor are really the victims here," he said.

The illegal numbers game has been kept at bay since Cruz's campaign started pressuring witnesses in the Senate investigation of jueteng last May, he said.

Mayor said the biggest "casualties" of the crackdown were bettors jueteng lords, like Bicolnon Boing Pineda and Sanchez. "They were tired so they can't put in more operations anymore."

GUILT QUILT
Forty-one stenciled signs are written on this quilt made by protest Cordillera women to protest poverty in agriculture and condemn the first days blame on government policies that adhere to the World Trade Organization.

Girl, pa, killed in Army operations vs Sayyaf men

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A 7-YEAR-old girl and his father, a religious leader, were killed in what the military said was a raid on suspected Abu Sayyaf members in Sitio Kalla Bonga, Mampang, Isabela City on Oct. 17.

But Aida Arsalan denied that her husband Hacsir, an Islamic spiritual leader of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), and their daughter Hasliya, 7, were followers of Abu Sayyaf leader Galib Hapilon, as claimed by the military.

"My husband was then reading loudly the Koran in preparation for the 'nyahoo' (breaking of the fast) when suddenly several armed men barged inside our house, took my husband and killed him and hurt me," Aida said in Tausug.

Aida said she managed to escape because she was then in the kitchen preparing food for the "nyahoo."

Photos taken by other MNLF members showed that the victims suffered several bullet wounds.

The old man were also tied with seahorse rope.

Aida said she was still looking for her missing daughter Maihara, 10, who was taken by soldiers when some neighbors tried to fight back. *Jullie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Highway robbery gang busted

LUCENA CITY—Three suspected members of a robbery-holdup gang operating in the Bicol-Metro Manila highway in Quezon and Bicol were arrested by policemen and soldiers last week. Senior Supt. Francis Cacayan Jr., Quezon police chief, identified the suspects as Salambo Manapol, 38, leader of the group; Jun Rosal, 26; and Edward Lagunda, 31—all residents of Quezon province. Police recovered a total of [illegible] during a shootout at Lilo Quezon. Military and police operatives, coordinated with Army soldiers for the operation that led to the arrest of the suspects. Authorities seized two hand grenades, a .38-cal. revolver, bladed weapons and a Fiesta Sa Kanayunan from the group.

Julie T. Mallen Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Wanted criminals nabbed

LUCENA CITY—After almost a year, police arrested last week two notorious Bicol's most wanted criminals. Senior Supt. Rueben Theodore Ouano, city police chief, identified the first to be arrested as Ronnel Cabrera of Perez Gumia, Barangay Tabugsing/Mayao, Bicol city and No. 1 on the list of a fellow-up operation in town. Quinto, police arrested Reynaldo Lalunsay, who was No. 3 on the list. Ouano said the two were responsible for the murder and beheading of a citizen last year in a rift of rape after a woman accused one of the suspects.

Julie T. Mallen Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Eagle adopted

[illegible] CITY—Giant eagle Sam Mark Philippines first adopted Magilang, a male Philippine Eagle captured by a farmer in September last 2002. Magilang is the second eagle captured by [illegible] the second eagle captured by [illegible] first being Pag-asa, the first eagle bred and hatched in captivity. "Our support to the environment is open-ended. We vow to continue to support the Philippine Eagle Foundation as long as we can," Edgar Chua, president and manager of [illegible] told the [illegible]. PDI has been calling on groups, individuals and companies to be part of the quest to save the endangered species. At least 14 of the 31 eagles currently under the CPF's care used [illegible]. The Philippine Eagle, the world's largest bird of prey, was declared an endangered species in 1985.

Josefin P. Bellilo, PDI Mindanao Bureau

3 wanted men held

CAMP VICENTE, Ilo Laguna—Police have arrested three of the most wanted persons in Batangas and Mindoro. Southern police director Chief Supt. Jesus Versoza identified the arrested suspects as Mahinky Mechida, 37, who is wanted for rape with murder; soldier homicide suspect Ronny Bagas, 36; and rape suspect Pat Rodrigo, 31. He said Mechida and Bagas were arrested in Barangay Bagalo Ilaya and Barangay Lindayo in San Jose, Batangas. Operatives were assisted by Barangay Bulago, Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro. Mechida had a P300,000 warrant for his capture, while Bagas and Lopenda set bail at P140,000 issued for their arrests.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Bank held up

CAMP VICENTE (Ilo Laguna)—Three armed men held up a rural bank in Imus, Cavite and took about P500,000 on Wednesday afternoon. Police said the suspects posed as bank clients of BMG Rural Bank located in Barangay Anabo 2. The suspects announced the holdup as soon as they came at the bank at about 1:40 p.m. Cavite said the suspects, all armed with short pistols, took three cellular phones from bank employees and escaped with P500,000 in the two getaway cars. Two suspects fled on board a jeep.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Poverty in Palawan

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The province that hosts the couple-tapped Tubbataha Reefs used to the country to stop languishing in poverty. Three of four Palawanites are poor, according to a 2000 survey by the Provincial Social Welfare and Development (PSWDO) Office. The study found that about 61 percent of Palawan residents did not have access to food, shelter and health services. PSWDO officer Apolonio David said the annual household income was P13,292 for a family of six. David said the major cause of poverty are the influx of migrants from poor provinces in the Visayas and Mindanao.

Julie P. Duarte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Batangas gov mum on Hagedorn's challenge to duel

SANCHEZ

HAGEDORN

CALAMBA CITY—A DAY AFTER Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn challenged him to a duel, Batangas Gov. Armando Sanchez decided to keep mum on the issue, citing the head of the government's anti-crime task force might have overreacted to his stolen clubmind.

Lawyer Rosario Gomez, the provincial administrator of Batangas, said Sanchez chose not to make any statement on the challenge posed by Hagedorn, who dared the governor to a fight after the governor called Hagedorn a hotgun, a Batangueño slang for "mad dog."

Gomez said Sanchez was just considering on a question from a journalist and did not intend to malign the mayor's personality.

"It's an overreaction. The governor actually issued the statement to give. The mood in his office during the press conference was (social). I don't think Governor Sanchez intended to hurt Mayor Hagedorn," Gomez said. She however, is not. talk politics anymore.

Sanchez called the country's anti-gaming czar a "mad dog" after he allegedly issued a statement to an Gov. 16 news conference in a hotel in Quezon City that the illegal numbers game had made a comeback in some parts of Luzon, including in Batangas.

A close ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo, Sanchez was rewarded in one of the country's biggest gaming turf by self-exiled fugitive gambling operator Wilfredo "Boy" Mayor.

The governor tried but failed to talk with Sanchez on his mobile phone. Gomez said the governor was busy attending to several meetings and others held at the capitol yesterday.

Hagedorn said he would "gladly face (Sanchez) man to man in any kind of fight...mano a mano or any weapon of his choice, including a duel using the famous world famous Bolero Barongs, the Batangas fighting knife."

"No bodyguards, just the two of us in neutral combat," Hagedorn said in a statement sent to the Inquirer.

Gomez said despite Hagedorn's drought-worded statement, they were still hoping that the two government officials, who he described as friends, could patch up their differences.

"Sayon di na ito aabot sa ganyan (of confrontation). Eto magkakaibigan naman, mag-usap at magsiliag lang sanayon na ang problema," Gomez said.

Ki, however, claimed that Sanchez had been seeking audiences with Hagedorn after seven of mayors of the province, including that of Alitagtag and Batangas City, complained about the mayor's clairvoyants.

Gomez said the Batangas governor told Sanchez that Hagedorn had indeed claimed that the illegal numbers game resurfaced in their province.

He said the governor appointed to get ahead after Hagedorn seemed to have caused chaos in anticipation for counting.

"Last week, Governor Sanchez said he has to arrange a meeting with Hagedorn to clear the issue on the resumption of jueteng. But the meeting could not be located. The governor also tried to contact him through his cell phone but he could not be contacted," he said.

He added: "So the governor had to compromise that Hagedorn was refusing to meet with him."

Marlon Ramos, PDI Inquirer Luzon Bureau

Protest held vs Capiz's 'aswang' feast

By Felipe V. Celino
PDI Visayas Bureau

ROXAS CITY—ABOUT 800 persons on board at least 200 vehicles yesterday joined the convoy initiated by the Catholic Church here to denounce their opposition against the staging of the Lapid Capizeno festival this week.

It was the biggest caravan witnessed by Capizeños in recent years, as the convoy of vehicles—mostly vans, cars and jeeps—had traveled for a kilometer long.

Among those who attended were Roxas City Vice Mayor Allan Celino, Penny actress Felipe Jurado, president of League of Municipalities of the Philippines-Capiz, and board members Emmylou Blanco and Hercules Alvidoso, and Msgr. John Lara, Capiz archdiocesan mass media coordinator.

The caravan also drew in members from at least six Catholic-based groups and four Protestant groups.

Capiz archbishop Jesus Gordoncillo was not able to join the caravan because he was in Manila to attend to some pressing matters.

Reaction

The caravan was held in response to the strongly worded pastoral letter issued by Gordoncillo on Oct. 16 that condemned the festival set on Oct. 25-30.

"We do not allow even seemingly the glorification of the aswang image per se and want it more as the response of the Capizeños who are worthy of their dignity and poise," he said.

The Dapeng Capizeño Inc. (DCI) has organized the festival to capitalize on the negative image that the province was a haven of witches and so have, ostensibly Capiz.

Arnel Ediape, DCI director, earlier said they wanted to turn the negative notion of aswang into an advantage as well as to promote the culture, climate, resources and progress and hence the economic and cultural circulation of capiz through tourism.

About 400 riders, rearranged at the St. Pius X Seminary in Barangay Cagay here at about 9 a.m. before kicking off the carnival that earned the theme, "Dignidad Capizeno: Bilwang Ingdit Sa Capizeños" (dignity).

Bell-ringing

The group then proceeded to Roxas town where about 40 residents from the town belonging to the province's second district waited for their activities joined the protest action.

The caravan passed Panitan town and dropped by Barangay Baybay in Pontevedra town. They were joined in by about 400 people from Capiz's first district town.

The procession then proceeded to Roxas town and were pleasantly surprised when several residents, students and town employees greeted them with some fireworks display.

The seventy-six bell in Sta. Monica Church in Roxas city triggered in a din, signaling to welcome the arrival of the protesters.

The caravan culminated in the Roxas City plaza at about 10:30 a.m.

The participants then proceeded to the Immaculate Conception Metropolitan Cathedral, fronting the plaza, to attend the Mass.

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OPENING REMARKS	HON. JOSE MA. A. CONCEPCION III Presidential Consultant for Entrepreneurship

EMBEDDING ENTRERPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT IN BASIC EDUCATION

ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN BASIC EDUCATION CURRENT INITIATIVES	HON. FE HIDALGO Acting Secretary, Department of Education
CREATING ENTREPRENEURIAL MINDSET IN URBAN POOR SCHOOL CHILDREN	MS. ANGELITA RESURRECCION President, Competency Based Economies Through Formation of Entrepreneurs (CBEE - Philippines)
ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN ACTION FOR BASIC EDUCATION	MS. GENEVIEVE LEDESMA-TAN President, Southville International School & Colleges
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RFM

Mining firm renews offer to explore sites in PMA

FORT DEL PILAR, BAGUIO City—The Philex Mining Corp. renewed its offer to explore and develop some portions of the Philippine Military Academy on Tuesday when its officials met Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz here.

Dr. Walter Brown, Philex chairman and corporate executive officer, and Cruz during the 107th PMA foundation day were here. He was accompanied by retired Brig. Gen. Eduardo Ferdinando, former PMA assistant superintendent and dean of the corporate affairs, who was hired as Philex security consultant.

Minutes before the Philex meeting, Cruz briefed former Defense Secretary Fortunato Abat about the budgetary crisis affecting the Armed Forces of the Philippines' modernization plans.

Cruz told Abat that the government's tense deficit allowed him to propose an upgrade only after 10 years. "Wala talagang pera (There really is no money)," he told Abat.

Cruz told the cadet corps during the 107th PMA foundation day rites here that his "Australian upgrade program" requires the government to entrust 1,000 new military officers, and to renew the soldiers of sufficient firepower, mobility, communications access, protective helmets and vests and guaranteed medical support throughout their combat lives.

Cruz did not immediately address the Philex offer. He asked Brown to instead update documents regarding alleged mineral lands located inside Fort del Pilar, according to a company source.

Philex originally offered to explore 40.49 (13 percent) of 373 hectares of the PMA reservation on behalf of its joint venture consortium with Anglo American Plc.

Gerald Bitner, Philex's treasurer, described the status of PMA in a March 22, 2002, letter to Jaime Bautista, former chief of staff, Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, as "devoid of vegetative cover due to the eruption of the Pinatubo and the mineralized nature of the soil."

The target site is separated from PMA facilities by a creek and is a kilometer from a squatter-ridden area that between can Benguet Kias lines.

Bautista told Villanueva that the mission meant that PMA would have to need for this land. "Ideally, it's that the Philex-Anglo joint venture controls the mineral claims immediately east of the boundary of the military reservation. ... For this reason, the joint venture is in a position to conduct the proposed work as no other company would be interested in neighboring only the portion inside the military reservation," Bautista said.

But Villanueva already advised then Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes in February 2002 against approving the mining proposal, citing the outcry that may erupt from the PMA alumni and city officials.

On April 19, 2002, Col. Manuel Ednace Jr., acting Judge Advocate General, affirmed the denial.

Lt. Gen. Ariel Arthur Adan, commander of the AFP Southern Command, also rejected the Philex offer when he assumed the PMA superintendent's post in 2001. —Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

A PHILEX truck carries through a road in the PMA compound. The company is looking at mining portions of the PMA and has renewed its offer to share income with the military academy. VINCENT CABREZA/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Canadian firm to pour $12M more into Zambo mining

HOGON, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR—Canada-based Toronto 750 Pacific Inc. said it will invest $12 million more in its copper and zinc mine in Canatuan here.

John Rahrdel, TVI country manager, told reporters here that the fresh investments will be used for the construction of roads and facilities such as tailings dams.

Rahrdel said TVI will also extract mineral deposits on top of those 3 million tons of ore currently being mined here for gold and silver.

"The new deposits have a different geologic character compared to the current mine hence it requires a separate extraction process," Tuby Bravo, the company's mine manager, said.

TVI estimated that the new deposits account for some 1.5 million tons of ore and contain 1.5 grams of gold per ton, 74.3 grams of silver per ton, 3.15 percent copper and 2.43 percent zinc.

These newly discovered deposits are just underneath the ore mineral zone of the deposits that contain only gold and silver, which is the subject of the current extraction activities of the company, and for which it has poured in some $250 million.

Rahrdel said plant construction is scheduled to be completed by end of new year while mineral extraction is expected to start by 2007.

Bagmat Mines, president of TVI Pacific's Philippine affiliate, TVI Resource Development Inc., said the copper and zinc output will be shipped to Japan. —Ryan Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau

ARMM offers canning firms incentives to relocate to region

COTABATO CITY—THE Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) has offered tax, land and other unique investment incentives to Zamboanga City-based fish canning companies, which were closing shop due to high operating costs there, to continue their businesses in the region.

"We offer our ARMM Regional Economic Zone to the canning companies to ease the burden of high cost of production," Regional Trade Secretary Ishak Mastura said.

The three fish canning outfits, Mega, Universal and Alaska, have reportedly notified their Department of Labor and Employment about their planned "temporary closure" due to high cost of operations.

The decision would displace about 4,000 daily wage earners in Pasticia Mendoza.

Rahim Mirasol Pick Lampong, which employs more than 1,000 workers, also sent a notice of closure to the labor department.

Mastura said the canning companies could move to Maguindanao and avail themselves of investment tools.

Under the ARMM's Autonomous Act, companies could avail of tariff and tax breaks, including marketing representation locally and abroad, Mastura said.

Asked about possible security concerns, Mastura assured the companies that the Area in Maguindanao is well-secured by policemen and military personnel.

He said the asset is close to Camp Gil Pendleton, office of the ARMM regional governor.

"We can help them build links with Middle East countries and other Muslim states belonging to the Organization of the Islamic Conference," Mastura said about the kind of marketing assistance the ARMM could provide to relocating companies.

On top of economic and investment incentives, Mastura assured that companies operating in the ARMM Area, which was patterned after the Philippine Economic Zone, would be protected by regional and national security laws.

Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan said he was more than willing to make personal representations with business organizations in the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines Economic Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) to convince them to infuse capital in fish canning companies planning to operate in the Pasta Zamboanga Peninsula. —Ryan Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Cordillera seen center of college education

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—THE Cordillera Council for Higher Education (CHED) is determined to make the Cordillera the prime education center for tertiary education in Northern Luzon.

The move will bank on a revitalized educational strategy that included "safeguarding the autonomy" and allowing the CHED to dispose bigger into matters that are normally considered purely academic, Dr. Magdalena Fermin, CHED Cordillera director, said.

Part of the approach, she said, is to encourage the business sector to establish businesses in strategic areas other than Baguio City to create an atmosphere conducive for the establishment of educational institutions.

Another is to let the CHED look into requests for funds of students in not to if the school owners comply with labor, internal revenue and insurance matters, she said.

Austin said the Cordillera regional development council had supported the plan following the national government's decision to allocate local bodies to share their educational development programs.

"The commission has committed that there will be no more higher educational institutions to be allowed to rise in Baguio City," Fermin said on Thursday.

"The city is already congested and schools to be put up will be advised to go further into the region," she said.

The region has 34 tertiary institutions but the biggest schools are found in Baguio City—Saint Louis University, University of Baguio, University of the Cordilleras and Baguio Central University.

She said the commission is also in the midst of strengthening its regional quality assurance team (RQAT) which is tasked with evaluating and recommending the issuance of permits or accrediting a college's or university's many courses.

Austin said the RQAT is the defacto technical working group of the CHED.

The RQAT is composed of academic experts who will handle the investigation and inspection of a school to determine if its curriculum, personnel and facilities are ready to accept a quality degree program.

Starting schools will be searched in view of their increasing enrollment caused by the growing demand for courses abroad. —With reports from Carolina Pil/PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

GROUND WORK
Participants in the recent boat for the Intramuros-to-Cavite island race part in a parade to prep for sinumbilihanwer ofIntramuros, their images reflected on a pool of water in the streets.

'Bangus' fry now being used as bait for tuna

DAVAO CITY—INSTEAD OF conserving milkfish (bangus), the country's national fish is now being used as bait for tuna.

George Campeon, regional director of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), said the volume of production of full-grown bangus in the Davao region has been declining since 2001, and the demand for bangus fingerlings has triggered this decline.

Instead of letting the bangus fry grow for human consumption, they are used as bait for tuna, he said.

"There is a great demand for them (bangus) fries because they are used as baits for tuna," Campeon said.

Aside from being bait for tuna, the fingerlings are also being used as feeds in fish cages. The aquaculture industry took off in 2001.

Campeon said the bangus' allure to tuna is the color of the fry, making it a better bait.

But Campeon said the use of bangus as feeds or bait is not illegal as the province is being done locally.

But other sources said the selling of bangus fingerlings to Taiwanese fishermen cheating at the Davao City fish port complex is rampant.

Campeon said the bangus fingerlings are being sold only to local fishermen and fish growers. —Judy Quirez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Telecoms firms lose big in rise in cable thefts

By Felipa V. Cabico
PDI Visayas Bureau

ROXAS CITY—TELECOMMUNICATIONS firms are asking local governments and police officials to stop the rampant theft of telephone cables, as close to P7 million worth of cable and fiber optic materials have been stolen here since January this year.

Brenda Alarcon, known Communications Center head in Roxas, said Globelines lost about P5 million to 16 incidents of theft in Capiz and five in Iloilo since January.

She, however, said the thefts became more frequent in the last two months. Five cases of cable theft were recorded in August and six in September, she said.

Ferdinand Betancor, Globelines station engineer based in Iloilo City, said the company lost 1,350 meters of telephone cables worth 18,000 pesos each.

The company also lost 300 fiber optic cables—24 in Roxas and 12 in Pontevedra, both in Capiz and 12 each in the towns of Antique, Iloilo, Dingle, Leganes and Calinog, all in Iloilo.

At least 115 metres of Globelines cable were stolen in Barangay Banica, Roxas on June 5 and 600 meters in Buri City, in Roxas on June 5.

Glen Pimentel, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) acting chief in Roxas, said his company had lost P2 million in telephone and fiber optic cables since January.

Reports submitted by Bernardo Dequilacio, PLDT Visayas trunk leader, said on Sept. 12 alone, 40 fiber optic cables were stolen in Pontevedra, seven cables were stolen in Panay, severely affecting its services to the area for almost a week.

Dequilacio said some 1,400 meters of telephone cables were stolen, with about 2,270 pairs out.

Aside from Roxas City, PLDT also serves the towns of Panay, Pontevedra, Mambusao, Dipna, Dumalag and Jamo-as, all in Capiz.

Dequilacio said on Oct. 19, 60 meters of cable were stolen in Barangay Tanque and another 60 meters in Barangay Jumao, all in Roxas.

Two cable TV companies here—Sky and Pinoybuddy—also complained that their lines had been stolen.

Police have yet to make an arrest in all the incidents since have remained unresolved.

Supt. Rene Espeto, Roxas Police police chief said area chief of the Regional Mobile Force, advised difficulty in identifying the suspects.

He said the thieves would usually strike between 11 p.m. to 1 a.m. and is likely in places where there were few houses.

The thieves would keep the cables for about a week so they could have them to remove the bronze before selling them to junk shops.

METRO
Edited by Lizzie Gatpayat-Jimenez
Text or your feedback:

MMDA drops ticket scheme

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE METROPOLITAN MANILA DEVELOPMENT Authority (MMDA) would end soon the Metropolitan Traffic Ticket (MTT) scheme and revert to the Traffic Violation Receipts (TVRs), an agency official said yesterday.

"We have already received instructions from the Cabinet to use the TVR. We will make sure it will be done, as instructed," said MMDA general manager Robert Nazareno.

No reason

Nazareno said the order from the executive branch to revert to the TVR sets issued last November to the MMDA and other agencies involved in issuance.

He did not give a reason for the order.

Despite an injunction from a Makati court, the MMDA continued implementing the MTT while an appeal the agency had filed on the Court of Appeals was pending.

Nazareno also did not give a specific date when the TVR would be issued again, but said the MMDA would follow the Cabinet order "as soon as operationally possible."

With the TVR, traffic enforcers would once again confiscate licenses of motor drivers, who would have to pay fines to redeem their documents.

The MTT, first implemented in 2004, did away with confiscation of licenses. Erring drivers paid fine fees at Metrobank branches.

Nazareno said they would make sure that the public was not inconvenienced.

Legality questioned

Transport groups had questioned the legality of the MTT in court, along with other MMDA traffic programs like the No Contact Traffic Apprehension (NCTA) scheme and Organized Bus Route scheme (OBS).

Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 148 Judge Gina Santarromana upheld only the OBS's validity.

He declared the MTT void, and the NCTA "unconstitutional."

Rally

Yesterday, some 1,000 protesters, consisting mainly of transport groups but including children and women, rallied in front of the MMDA office on Orense Street corner Edsa in Makati City to protest the MTT scheme.

They also demanded the resignation of MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando, who sits Edsa in Makati for another engagement.

"Mr. Fernando should first follow the law. He could not due that he himself does not follow the law, to relief's the point of obeying him?" said Efren de Luna, national president of the Philippine Confederation of Drivers Organization Alliance of Concerned Transport Operators (PCDO Acts).

De Luna said traffic enforcement functions should be entrusted to the Land Transportation Office, and the PNRA and local government should not meddle in road rules implementation.

No comment

Fernando refused yesterday to answer questions on the rally in front of his office as he joined his wife Marilou Mayor Mendoza Fernando in raising a separate detention cell for senior offenders at the Makati City Jail.

"I will not accept questions about the rally," he told television reporters after the short program.

In a statement yesterday, the militant group Pinglahukan ng mga Samahan ng Transport Operator Nationwide accused of a bigger transport strike if their demands were not met. With reports from Tonette A.

Jaylo agents face extortion charges

By Tina G. Santos

THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE WAS FURIously charged 11 operatives of the anti-organized crime unit Aspac Wes national. Task Force (NGEF) jammed two arrest orders for illegal detention activities.

The former Task Force was under the supervision of former Senior Supt. Reynaldo Aquino.

Charged of robbery, usurpation of authority, qualified bribery and violation of the anti-graft and corrupt practices act were filed in the Manila Prosecutor's Office against SPO2 Santiago Ty and SO2 Francisco Quiro of the Traffic Management Group; SPO4 Romeo Pitargue and PO2 Rodolfo Rasalio of the Manila Police District's Station 1 (Tondo); officers Reynaldo Aris, Barry Grace Carmona, Alfin Tabil, Raul Lanao, Hernan Rivera, Ricardo Duque and Christopher Lanuza.

Senior Chief Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco said the illegal possession of firearms complaint was withheld as he was still waiting for a report from the Firearms and Explosive Division of the Philippine National Police.

But Velasco recommended that Jaylo, now Philippine Overseas Employment Administration deputy chief, and other PAOCTF officers and personnel undergo preliminary investigation to determine complicity, if any, with the respondents.

The case stemmed from a complaint filed by Arsenio and Mary Jane Penaso to the National Bureau of Investigation. They accused the PAOCTF agents of unlawful arrest. The suspects also asked for P200,000 for their release, the couple added.

The respondents, currently detained at the NBI headquarters, were arrested in an entrapment operation by the National Intelligence Special Operations Division and Special Task Force.

MetroBriefs

Promotion for 162 cops

SIX BUSHED sixty-two policemen were promoted for completing Makati during turning the May 1, 2007 school year. The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) approved the certification to promote first of the policy officials after the PNP Special Programmes Awards, and Executive Board (SPAB) recognized their heroism in preserving peace and order in the country, to the rank of a higher rank during and for the days leading to the May 1, 2007 celebration. "I told Makati Chief Angelo Reyes in a statement. He had made the same announcement in July when the executive order promoted 627 lawmen for making a contribution to the fight against terrorism during a 2007. At the time, supporters of former President Joseph Estrada stormed Malacañang to protest against the declaration as President of then-Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

2 girls drown in pool

A child study session turned into a tragedy for the families of two girls who drowned in a pool at the Alhambra Wellness complex in the city of Manila. Quezon City. The bodies of Alexandra Rosario, 8, and Darren dela Paula, 7, were found at the bottom of an swimming pool outside the compound the other day. The two girls were apparently playing in the pool before the study session started at 2 p.m. Police Senior Inspector (PSI) Hilaya Tuesday. The girls were rushed to the hospital but earlier members were not able to save them. EJ Fer

Prayer Art Exhibit

THE PRAYER Art Exhibit featuring over 100 paintings by El Gabriel, a ongoing until Oct. 31 at the Ellen Center for Botanical, M. 1000 St., Building 4000, Village, New Manila, Quezon City. Proceeds from the exhibit will benefit Gawad Kalinga Foundation Inc. Featured artists include Ronny Benjamin, Jose Cumpadre, Evelyn Salazar, Bel Pagarigan, Jhan Mic Tan and Antonio Wood. The exhibit is part of the ongoing Excellence Foundation Series 2008.

ALL SMILES Miss Makati of Venezuela (2nd from left) is the new Miss Earth. Other winners are Jovana Manjarrez (left) of Serbia and Montenegro, Miss Fire; Arnell Ebersole (2nd, right) of the Dominican Republic, Miss Air; and Katarzyna Borodzicz of Poland, Miss Water. AFP PHOTO

Venezuelan model is new Miss Earth

By Armie Adina

VENEZUELA PROVED ONCE AGAIN its solid reputation as a rich source of beauty queens when one of its stunning residents, Alexandra Braun, beat 76 other contestants for the 2007 Miss Earth crown.

The new beauty queen was crowned Sunday in the Coliseum of The Philippines Theater.

Arnell Ebersole of the Dominican Republic, the tallest contestant at 6-foot-1, was crowned second and named Miss Air. Miss World 2006 finalist, Katarzyna Borodzicz of Poland was Miss Water while Jovana Manjarrez was Miss Fire.

Braun, a 22-year-old model from Puerto Ordaz, also got the palm for Best in Swimsuit. She was first runner up in last month's Miss Venezuela pageant, one of the toughest national beauty contests in the world. Ebersole was also runner up in the Dominican Republic pageant.

For the final round, the top four contestants were asked to answer between an and under Braun, who got the highest points. "Although both are needed, I consider air the most important one because it gives life."

Miss Earth, organized by the Manila-based Carousel Productions, is the only pageant that helps promote the conservation of the environment. Others in the Top 8 were Amanda Bimbati of the United States, Brit in Long Grove senator Vanessa de Roide of Puerto Rico, Miss Photogenic Melody Chiste of Chile and Miss World winner Tania Doumitrity of Paraguay. Miss Philippines Geraldine Rodgers was in the Top 16.

Socialite Rosemarie "Baby" Arguelles chaired the board of judges that included Jeanne Mercedes Kierulf, Star Boies Pilato-Valdez and 2001 Miss Earth Catherine Severson of Denmark.

Long faces line longest buffet

By Volt Contreras

AN ATTEMPT TO SET A WORLD RECORD BY dining delights may have thin out a record in Pampanga instead.

A restaurant Corner in Quezon City claiming it had served the world's "longest buffet," broke a record earlier set in France by offering a grand dinner of 400 different dishes on tables stretching 1,500 meters.

But the feast held at the field of the Barrio and City complex in Ulilo and endorsed by the Department of Tourism, apparently underestimated hungry crowds that showed up for the sundown feast. By many accounts, reaching the hundreds, hundreds who had registered hungry and massed the aromas of the P950-a-person ticket were their money back from the organizers.

They complained there was not enough food to last the night, starting at long and forcing hundred ticket-holders to head to neighboring restaurants. Secretary of Tourism Joseph Ace Durano said the management was "sincerely apologizing to those who were not accommodated" and that it would give refunds.

Durano vowed the "operational glitch" to the unexpected board of patrons, some even coming in buses from the provinces, whose organizers were forced to serve even after other rules were officially closed the day before. At around 9 p.m. or two hours after the buffet was declared open, the hopeful still jammed the tables, families and gangs were holding empty plates.

In a statement yesterday, Eastwood management said that while about 3,000 people from around Metro Manila "came to support the event ... a few groups registered disappointment that the food served at the buffet had closed earlier than expected, due to the overwhelming attendance."

Arnie Teo, director for commercial services, claimed that "many persons coming from the provinces still had coming long after [organizers] had stopped selling tickets to the buffet."

Anyone said Eastwood would refund ticket-holders by exchanging the P950 ticket for cash at the Eastwood's discount token office, though marketing manager Claire Bautista, reportedly, that the restaurant had underestimated to get the equivalent amount to feed just hungry, movie adventure, or parking fees.

But to make sure only patrons who were not served in the buffet get the refund, Eastwood said it would only refund tickets that "stamp and not torn," a method argued by the interrogating staff on the night of the buffet.

According to Eastwood, it said, say the "longest documented buffet to date, beating France's 2006 answer record by a wide margin [with] 500 meters." A total of 30 restaurants in the city participated in the event that had called to the mess that betrayed curious from 10 countries. Sources said the project took a third name for improvement failures.

A lean and mean Armed Forces

ON TARGET

RANDOLF DAVID

THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILippines (AFP) is asking Congress for an additional P10 billion to increase 12 new Army battalions. But Cebu Rep. Edmundo Cuillas says the government cannot accommodate the AFP's request.

"Considering the international military spending, counterinsurgency expenditures, spending, which we can't afford at this time," says Cuillas. He is right. The government doesn't have the money to create 12 new battalions or 60,000 soldiers (at 500 soldiers per battalion).

Why does the military have to recruit new members when it can train its present crop of soldiers into a more modern fighting force?

Counting heads is not the answer to victory in fight the Moro and communist insurgency. The solution lies in making soldiers more efficient in the art of war. This means more training and discipline for the soldiers. Besides, additional troops for the AFP are not necessary since we have many units on ships and on the Navy with no planes.

* * *

The front page photos in some newspapers recently showed heavily armed Coast Guard personnel aboard a rubber boat patrolling Manila Bay purportedly to prevent terrorists from entering the metropolis via the sea.

How could the Coast Guard guard the metropolis against terrorists when it can't even prevent fishermen from polluting rivers in Manila Bay? There are reports that pirates in Manila Bay found foreign ships anchored offshore and rob their crew members. Besides, how can the Coast Guard offload in the safety of the fishermen and foreign ships in Manila Bay when even of its top-ranking officials is allegedly protected against criminally investigation by foreign agencies following up contracts in his office?

* * *

The Catholic Church in Cebu has expressed anger with the arrest of an "unsung" (sic) activist to be held on Oct. 25-30 in the province. The archbishop of Cebu, Ricardo Vidal, has urged the faithful gather evil and pagpanan. For organizers of the affair say the activity or held of a material done to the province.

Among in Philippine folklore is a creature that preys on pregnant women, eating the babies in their wombs. Only the ignorant and the gullible believe in sawang. The festival organizers aim to debunk the common belief that Cebu is the "sawang capital of the Philippines." The festivals are different from the celebrations of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day celebrated with customary parties featuring manoknok and tuba. Now, who's glorifying the unfabricated sawang the archbishop, who loudly presents its existence, or those who organize the whole affair to debunk the sawang?

Caloocan sets up price watchdog to protect consumers

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A COORDINATING COUNCIL that would serve as a price watchdog to protect consumers from unscrupulous businessmen has been set up in Caloocan City.

The council of local government officials who sits as the council's chair.

Echiverri said the creation of the monitoring group would help cushion the impact of price increases in anticipation of the implementation of the Value-Added Taxes bill.

He said the government is irresponsible supplication of the new tax law and the impact of latest, national oil price increases would seriously hurt ordinary consumers.

The group is tasked to recommend price ceilings and standards for prime commodities.

Among the duties and functions of the council are to conduct in-depth studies on various issues of price fluctuations and recommend necessary measures to correct abnormal increases and artificial shortages of supplies.

As chair, Echiverri would also conduct public hearings and initiate talks with representatives of local factories, wholesalers, retailers and consumers.

To ensure the success of the group, various agencies of the local government, including the militarem, were included as members, the mayor added.

Local business group represented by the City's Chamber of Commerce and Trade, and the transportation sector from the Division of City Schools were asked to join the council along with the Office of the City Prosecutor, market administrator, the chief of the permit and licensing office, and the City Health Office, among others.

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WHAT'S INSIDE

Bustamante nips Orcollo for top cash /A20

White Sox down Astros once /A21

New PBA rules pave way for Menk's return

By Jurie Navarro

ERIC MENK CAN NOW STOP searching for his hard-to-find citizenship documents.

The PBA board of governors yesterday adopted a new set of guidelines on the eligibility of foreign-born players suspended by the league, paving the way for the return of Barangay Ginebra's prize forward Menk.

After an extensive discussion, commissioner Noli Eala said the board agreed to pardon the suspended players who can meet the following conditions:

- He should have been active for the 2004-2005 season.
- He should be a Philippine passport holder.
- He should have won award for the 05 year's basketball team at least once.
- He must have had a positive impact on the league prior to this suspension.

Menk, back-to-back conference and Finals MVP during the Gin Kings' pair of title runs last season, is a ninth foreign-born player to be hobbled a Philippine passport, having represented the country in the 2002 Busan Asiad festival.

"The decision to adopt a new criteria has been necessitated by recent legal developments which have made the 1976 continued reliance on the [Department of Justice] as ineffective and unplayed," said Eala.

Eala added that the new set of conditions applies only to players suspended by the league due to citizenship problems. It also replaced the requirements on foreign-born players that were adopted by the league early this year.

The league used to deputize solely on the justice department to decide whether a foreign-born player is eligible to join the PBA.

Acting on a recommendation by a league committee, the BOG declared last year that Sol Mercado, Asawin Upp, Mike Fermin, Alex Crisano, Rudy Hatfield and Jeri Ocfemia were ineligible Filipinos and ordered their deportation.

Tightening the screws further, the PBA also required at least 20 foreign-born players to submit additional citizenship papers or face suspension.

The new development does not sit well, however, with the group of homegrown players led by Sta. Lucia Realty's Marlou Aquino, who promised to bring their case against the foreigners' play on the floor or Malacañang.

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Sambajon pockets P4M in Skins

ATLANTIC CITY, NEW JERSEY—FIL-Basque Sambajon became one instant millionaire by emerging champion in the 2005 Skins Billiard Championship Sunday (Sunday in Manila) at the Resorts casino here.

The 40-year-old Sambajon topped a three-player saddle-finish playoff that the organizers of sponsor Donnie Boutwell, to pocket a total of $75,000 (about P4.07 million) in the seventh-edition 10-man tournament.

Sambajon, native of Maasinloc, Dagupan, also scored the finish by winning a three-point playoff for $50,000 at the expense of his semifinal assignments Friday.

Joining Sambajon in the chase for $50,000, divided into three for each of 12 games, were Boutwell, American Earl Strickland and Filipino pool legend Jose "Bassit" Parica.

Sambajon won the 12th game at the expense of Boutwell to cop a shot at the $50,000.

Sambajon collected the 10th game-cut on Dead loaded on a shot on the 7 ball in the 10th game. Parica left Sambajon with a shot on the 8 ball/9 ball combination, but the cue ball spun around the table and caromed off the 9 into the pocket. Parica showed up to trigger the playoff.

Boutwell knocked out Strickland with a bank on the 8 ball combo in the 9 ball/8 ball game. Sambajon took advantage of a loose break to cop it.

In the last game, Sambajon ran the rug, sank three balls on his break, and was not for the inconsistent pocketing.

Abelino Bermardino, assemblyman

COURTESY

PNTC duel shapes up

A RIVALRY BETWEEN JODY CONNering and Dale Parker has culminated in the Philippine National Touring Car Championship after two endurance-packed weekends at the Subic International Racing Circuit in Remate, Zambales.

Counting acknowledged as the country's winningest competition driver, and Parker, his fast opponent, split the first four races of the 12-race series pronounced by Dan Parker, Inc. each endorsed by the representative Association of the Philippines.

In their most recent duels, Parker docked a fast 1:33.981 minutes in the second lap of the third round, but Connering did even better with 1:32.009 in the seventh lap of the fourth round.

Experts also predict that several equally talented drivers like Bobby Jones Booker and Louie Sanares, Philip Alvarado, Jeremiah Bay, Jr., and Orlando Marcelo and Jonathan Tan can muddle up the race for the coveted Driver of the Year award when the series comes in third and fourth on Nov. 5 and 6.

4 of 8 UAAP execs want 3-yr ban on La Salle

By Manny B. Cendaña

NO LESS THAN A THREE-YEAR suspension for De La Salle University.

This is what four of the eight UAAP board members want to impose on the darkies, who admitted they unwittingly fielded two ineligible players when they won the varsity basketball championship in 2004.

One board member told the Inquirer that a one-year ban would be "too soft," just like the penalty the league imposed on talented in 1994 for allowing Marlou Aquino to play for the like-name league scholastic delinquencies.

A longer suspension is "justified," according to another board member, since La Salle's case involves two players and public documents—not internal school screw-ups—were falsified.

"We will seek governmental sanctions, possibly also the NBI. [National Bureau of Investigation] to look into this case since La Salle is done with its own investigation," the source who wanted to remain anonymous.

"We have to do this because it seems to be a rush-orchestrated action, and it could happen to other teams in the future. Universities cooperate with other people can and when this [with] involves [personnel]."

A fifth board member interviewed by the Inquirer, however, said that the finding of guilt and blame La Salle is going throughout the statement is enough punishment.

"We have enough evidence in admitting that they were at fault," he said. "This thing could have been kept a secret for who knows how long. What I think the board needs to do at this time is to just make sure that it have realized for a repeat of this incident.

"And, if there ever were other cases before, we should be able to uncover all of them."

Under an agreement forged several years ago, only the league president is authorized to release statements to the media. This has prevented the five board members from confirming themselves.

"They have been making me a cake for the last three years," another board member said. "They should have picked their cake because these like these could have been sniped to the bud."

Mark Reyers and Tito Gonzalez are widely believed to be the two ineligible players which the Green Archers admitted to have fielded from 2003-2005 and 2003-2004, respectively.

An Inquirer source said both had pointed to members of the team's staff as the officials who facilitated their PEP test results to separate testimonies given to La Salle first-finding committee last week.

Those PEP test results were used to issue certificates to La Salle accreditation with every strict and high admission standards.

La Salle is expected to announce the results of its investigation this week. The USAP board meeting then will decide on the fate of La Salle's ad in the final week of November.

Against's scholastic effectiveness were observed when he was refused admission into the Philippine Basketball Association rookie draft for lacking the required 48 units in college for prospects aged 22 and under. Aquino later admitted to having completed just 10 units.

DJIPICO Bustamante delivers despite having elbow

9-BALL RP OPEN

Bustamante nips Orcollo for top cash

BUCKING A PAINFUL RIGHT ELBOW PROBlem since "Lineup" Bustamante survived a four-hour marathon duel to beat his first rival second-generation Sandro Night.

Bustamante played a total of 10 racks on the final day of the Philippine 9-Ball Open, capping his gutsy show with a come-from-behind 11-9 victory over the Filipino-Canadian in the championship match at the Robinson's Galleria Trade Hall.

The 8-time world title, 1 who in the last to go into Adler Music Television in the semifinals, 11-8, earned P600,000 in the long moment exchanges Dr. Pepsi Sports and Dolan Sports.

Orcollo, an 11-8 winner over Bustamante, came in the other semifinal duel, settled for P200,000.

Bustamante said he was not one to keep his happy after the victory he shared with pregnant wife Rilla Mae Bustamante at the venue from Day 1 to close that at the table.

The 42-year-old pride of Tacloban is set to undergo cosmetic procedure to determine if he'll also play long tournaments because of the ongoing pain on his right elbow.

The injury worsened his knee-taken to fall on Bustamante in the finals.

Known for his strong breaking game, he suffered three dry spells in seven runs as Orcollo took an 8-6 lead.

Orcollo's dry breaks in the 15th frame proved to be the turning point of the match as Bustamante clustered two racks to level the score at 8-all.

A pocketing error by Orcollo on the 23rd led to another five-rack cluster by Bustamante that proved the former world No. 1 to 14-12.

Both players held their breaks in the final seven to settle the final score.

RP SEAG shooting squad loaded with veterans

By Mart Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINE SHOOTING TEAM TO NEXT month's Southeast Asian Games is loaded with former Olympians and veterans of world championships who are gunning for 35 gold medals.

Following world gunning champion Alfilen Tecsones, Olympians Nathaniel "Tet" Padilla and Ernesto "Ernie" Concepcion will bolster the 25-man team, according to the list released by PSSA president Art Manangquil.

Manangquil said that the country could win at least 20 gold medals especially with the inclusion of 10 air-rifle pistol which increase a gold event for the country in 1991 when the Philippines took the shooting title.

Like in swimming, the Philippines hosted 34 gold medals in shooting back in 1981, helping propel the country to a 91 gold finish, just a gold short of second-place Malaysia.

This time, though, Manangquil said that the strongest opposition will come from Vietnam, which took the host's share of the 40 gold medals disputed in the 2003 Vietnam SEAG.

Only 10 golds are at stake this time.

Manangquil said the RP shooters will currently expect homebrew advantage with competitions slated in Muntinlupa and the Rizal.

Golf and lightning

SPECTATOR

Al N. Henderson

BY THE PHILIPPINES TODAY, BUT ENJOY golf course is equipped with lightning warning. That is real and wealthy measure not only part of the international golf courses but that we're also for some a golf-crazed country.

The remarked all of a recent tragedy at the Royal Alfaro Country Club in Manila, where, on June 26, April 30 this year, two golfers died and six others, six to caddies and four caddies) were injured after lightning struck the area died others they sought shelter in during a downpour.

The caddies of the two fatalities could be seen in paired shelters with an unprotected caps of heads or arms. The two died of cardiac arrest through side flashing, a phenomenon whereby lightning jumps from an object hit by lightning to another nearby object or person.

In a similar incident, five golfers had taken shelter together a tree during a thunderstorm, as lightning hit the tree, killing three and injuring the other two.

Again, no outward signs of harm or scars were seen from inside the tree.

Again, the verdict: the tree never hit by a side flashing of a current, affecting their heads and causing their heart to stop. Those caddies never were against the rules of death of the tree.

There is the belief that when there's thunderstorm or the best way to avoid getting hit by a lightning is to seek shelter under a tree or a tree died.

"That is wrong.

According to some experts, including my buddy Bert Panlilio, one is never prone to suffer injuries while under a tree or when inside a vehicle or dried. Some time when one is in an open space during a lightning-related thunderstorm.

The reason generally considered safe for golf when there's a thunderstorm because they are equipped with UV (Lightning Protection) System, which lightning sensors into the Xitrix, Manila Golf Club, Manila Southwoods, Riviera, Fairways and Blue Pirate, Riviera, Forest Hills, Mt. Makiniguan, Tan Pilgrims, Alabang, Sagunday Midlands, Club Intramuros and Splendido.

Said Bert Panlilio: "Prior to the shutdown era, we had the conventional lightning protection system using the copper cone on the head. Then came up with them in golf courses. Today, the UPS is used by most golf courses. The high-voltage lightning energy from the lightning in the air and then to the ground."

After the recent Intramuros Manila dual tournament of Apostolado, lightning became a hot topic, and it was those who gave several golfers a crash course about golf and lightning.

"The UPS installed in a golf course does not totally save one from injuries," he said. "It can minimize accidents, but not totally eradicate accidents. Side flashing is the No. 1 culprit in lightning and it can damage a building's concrete to life and limb."

Like earthquakes, lightning is unpredictable.

"We will not be able to predict whether a lightning will hit this evening or this week," Bert said. "Hence one, it is also better to have an SOS and a 95 percent protection for both levels than nothing at all."

It is a pity that some famous golf courses don't have lightning sensitive.

Here this cell phone number is 09175, 8003-0002 and I believe there might to be a few organizing all golf courses to install lightning sensitive.

Meanwhile, why not protect your children or to install one, if your course doesn't have one yet?

It's your right to be safe.

• • •

TIGER: A dear sale of some has passed away. Tia Lilay Lilia Mendoza Enrile, reaching the ripe age of 90, was tough but sweet. She embodied righteousness and was always home like Her remains, lying in the Mandaluyong Funeral Home, Mandaluyong, will be interred this Saturday at the Loyola Memorial Catholic cemetery after an 8 a.m. Mass. The wife of the late Sr. Mendoza, she departed for Tia's best friend, Tia Lilay left behind children Madam, the late Gregorio, Enrile Hugo, Enrile Rosario, Lily, Cecilia, Dalli and Sec. Cali grandchildren, and sister Tia Tolong. We are informed Sunday in Grade 5. Everybody missed, Tia Lilay.

E-mail: sarnya@philinfo.net

SPORTSWATCH

PCCr juniors make it 3 in a row

ADRIAN CLARAVALL AND JOEL MENDOZA DRIVE THE DEFECT DRIVING AS Philippine College of Criminology finished Lito Atienza College, 82-67, and defeated Benjamin Guevarra the Gilligan and Intramuros Athletic Association (Gilas) basketball tournament at the UST gym. Claravall and Mendoza combined for 38 points for the Junior Cobras (3-0) while Jeffrey Cabrera added another strong to their eight straight championship and tenth overall since 1998. "Starboys passed-out fourth to achieve our goal," said PCCr coach Jessie Ramos Tenorio. Marvel L. Clarino University (who replaced the PCCr reign only in 1999. "This is a routine victory for the team," said PCCr team director Rolando Navarro.

RP-Pasig golf tomorrow at Sherwood Hills

THE WEST RIP-PASIG CITY COUNCIL INTERNATIONAL GOLF CHALLENGE TEED off tomorrow at the Sherwood Hills Country Club in Trece Martires, Cavite. The annual meeting staged by the Rizal Provincial Government and Pasig City Council "Laging Handa" and their "Sol" Cavite at the Cavite Group of Companies for a two-day outdoor with Governor Ireneo Lubiano, Pasig Councilor Lito Atienza and Board Trading and Construction Group. More than 100 golfers are using for lunch in this tournament, according to Pasig Sun Secretary Jesse Mercado. Participants of Senator Ralph Recto, Cabinet's press director RUP Pasig City Council finance committee chair Jose Secretary "Joey" Papinian Jr. and Barangay chairmen and RUP Pasig City Councilors Dario Bautista "Nonie," MA. Cabrera at Abbreviation can host Diamond Hotels and other valuable prizes will be on the golfers' tees this morning. Signing ritual drawn "Lon" Santiago. The Rizal Gallantry Hotel will follow and will be hosting sponsored by Jun Miguel Group, Solaire and ISMEC Construction Inc.

NCA 7-stag derby starts tonight

THE NATIONAL CHICKEN ASSOCIATION (NCA) 7-STAG DERBY STARTS AT 7 tonight at the Quezon Coliseum. Fifty-two cocks are fighting in the derby's two-day eliminations. Peter Lopez and the Royal Brothers Poultry will be in the finals to the NCA Derby after of the three-day being contested by Northern Star, Bay Hotel and Bilog Enterprises (Bilog Hatchery) and the cocks of Mr. "Bill Jones", Pilo-ating Bees and Pablo Chicken, Bay, Wonder Hens, Jun Santiago, Ben Ilo Chicken, Bro. Jun, Bro. Lito and Barangay Kapitan Jose and Bill Chang Sky Gaza-Chicken Bee Bumble "Bum," MA. Cabrera at Abbreviation can host Diamond Hotels and other valuable prizes will be on the golfers' tees this morning. Signing ritual drawn "Lon" Santiago. The Rizal Gallantry Hotel will follow and will be hosting sponsored by Jun Miguel Group, Solaire and ISMEC Construction Inc.

Fair matching for GCAP Big Event

TEAM MATCHMAKING FOR THE MORNING OF NOVEMBER 6 AT THE SPECIAL event "Indoor" system will be initiated for organizers of the GCAP Big Event this day at the Ayala Triangle Gardens. The event, hosted by the Ayala Corporation (AC), is called Interactive and Dulcinday. Participants must bring their cheap of $20 dollars per matching. Interested can do so by Thursday, November 3 at the AC office on Ayala Ave. from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The day's activities will start from 10:30 p.m. Saturday. Among the participants are Patrick Romero and Philippines Jaqui Pesa and Boots Friday.

Religion hosts Clean Up Eights Nov. 13

FOLLOWING MEGA-CODE 05 AREA OF FOR THE 2005 CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME of 05 their Asian city-wide derby on Nov. 13. Guaranteed prize is P100,000 to an entry fee of P5,000. Mega-participants, limited for Mega Bulletin Boards, are semi-finalists awarded. Those hosted by Edgar Executive "Lakanan" shirt-Boards also allowed. Other big boards only). Call Nov. 13, 7 Nov. 05 to the Agent Bulletin Boards. The deadline Pa Kanda derby, contact Wonder Boards and Diamond Star Boards are up for grabs. For inquiries, call 911-2273, 810-1008 or 882-6881.

AT GLORY MD. 444

Podsednik homer lifts White Sox past Astros

WHITE SOX's Scott Podsednik hits the game-winning home run in the ninth. | AP

CHICAGO—SCOTT PODSEDNIK DELIVERED A walk-off home run to seal a 7-6 White Sox victory over Houston on Sunday, ensuring Chicago teammate Paul Konerko's grand slam didn't go to waste in game two of the World Series.

The White Sox earned a two-games-to-none lead in the best-of-seven Major League Baseball championship series, which heads to Houston on Tuesday for game three.

Podsednik, who didn't homer in 307 at-bats during the regular season, hit his second home run of the playoffs with one out into the center field seats off reliever Brad Lidge.

It was the 140th walk-off homer in World Series history.

"This one came at great time," Podsednik said. "It hit one out of the ballpark for a great winner to pretty much nobody's doubt. [But] we haven't accomplished anything yet. We still have to get two more wins."

Lidge had also surrendered Albert Pujols' three-run, two-out ninth-inning shot to give Game 6 of the National League Championship Series.

"I threw a fastball in a bad spot," Lidge said.

Konerko's grand slam came with two outs in the seventh off Chad Qualls, who had issued 14 of the last 19 batters he faced.

The towering shot tore the left-field video screen—the first-ever postseason grand slam by a White Sox player—erased a 4-2 deficit and put Chicago 6-4 ahead.

"My knees it right where I was looking," Konerko said. "I was thinking to get a base hit to drive in two runs and hopefully tie the game. And bang, you get it."

Konerko has had a wild-card week. His wife gave birth to their first child on Oct. 17.

Asked to describe the feeling of hitting a grand slam in his World Series, Konerko said, "It's the second-best feeling I've had all week. The baby born Tuesday night, that's the best for the week. That one [the grand slam] is second." Red Sox catcher Jason Varitek also connected the game at 6-6 with a single to left that scored Josh Bard and Burke—who did not home past the tag of catcher AJ Pierzynski.

The Astros briefly regained the momentum they had built before Konerko's blast, when they looked as if they were on their way to forcing the series.

Lance Berkman had driven in three runs and starter Andy Pettitte limited the White Sox to two runs and eight hits over six innings as Houston took a 4-2 lead.

The Sox launched their rally against reliever Dan Wheeler with one out in the seventh, when Juan Uribe hit his third double of the Series. With two out, Tadahito Iguchi drew a walk and Jermaine Dye came to the plate.

Wheeler hit Dye with a 1-2 pitch to load the bases, although replays appeared to show the ball struck his bat instead.

"I disagree with the call. I think the ball hit the bat," Astros manager Phil Garner said.

AFP

In cooperation with the City of Manila

7th CINEMANILA International film festival SCREENINGS OCTOBER 24

Ayala Greenbelt 1 | Robinson Manila 11:30am | Gateway Batay 2:00pm

Ambon sa Dilawan 4:30pm | YOUNG CARDIAC MIDDLE 7:00pm | Better Luck Tomorrow 9:30pm

Cinema 3, Ayala Greenbelt 3, Cinema 4, Robinson Manila, Gateway Batay

Closing birdies give Glover Funai crown

LAKE BUENA VISTA, FLORIDA—Jason Glover captured his first PGA Tour victory Sunday with birdies on the last two holes, making a 48-foot putt from the fringe and a 10-foot birdie chip on the last hole to win the Funai Classic at Disney.

Glover, who closed with a 7-under 65, was among 10 players who had a chance to win over the final hour. Bogeys by Heintzelman and Glover, who finished with a 19-under 269, put the pressure on Glover, who looked as though his best chance would be getting into a playoff.

That's not a dramatic finish.

He landed shot-exploded from the rough, high in the air, landed about 3 feet short of the cup and rolled in for birdie.

"I was trying to get it close and hope for a tap-in," Glover said. "And then the winner went in."

Glover finished at 23-under 265, and had to wait to make sure that held up. He was on the practice range, trying to stay loose as workers noisily tore down the grandstands behind him.

He dropped long enough to look across a strand of trees at Tom Hernandez Jr., who had a 10-foot birdie putt to force a playoff. Hernandez's shoulders dropped when he struck the putt, which never had a chance.

"I didn't hit a great putt," said Hernandez, who closed with a 69 but made only one birdie over the last 14 holes. "What can you going to do? Live to attend a great event. My last's off to him."

Glover, a 25-year-old American, became the first Disney winner to make the last four years to make this his first US PGA Tour victory. He earned $792,000 (more$659,240) and moved to 20th on the money list, giving him a good chance of going to Lost Lake to earn another for the Tour Championship.

For Heintzelman, it was the first time in 10 starts since he finished in the top 10.

AP

Nadal rules Madrid Masters over Ljubicic in 5-set thriller

MADRID, SPAIN—RAFAEL Nadal rallied to beat Ivan Ljubicic of Croatia, 3-6, 7-6, 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (5), Sunday in the Madrid Masters final.

The 13-time-old Spaniard, cheered on by a boisterous crowd at Bucharest's Winchel arena, never trailed in the decisive fifth-set tiebreaker. He got a mini break on the first point when Ljubicic netted a passing attempt.

Nadal had never before rallied from two sets down to win a five-set match.

"Everywhere in the world, it would have been impossible to defeat Ljubicic," said Nadal, who has won nine finals in a row since losing to Roger Federer in Miami in April. "Thanks to the fans, I won this final."

"You win behind, he was playing great. How many aces did he make ... 12. What do you think about that? I didn't even see the ball."

Nadal entered the Madrid tournament after a three-week knee injury layoff.

Ljubicic took a 2-0 lead in the fifth set when he broke Nadal. But Ljubicic hit one of only three double-faults to the next game and Nadal, playing his first tournament in Spain since winning the French Open, eventually broke back. Both players held their servers the rest of the way.

It was Nadal's 13th ATP Tour title this year, matching Juan Carlos Ferrero's record. It was also the top-seeded Spaniard's fourth Masters title, also tying the Swiss star.

Nadal has won 79 matches this season, two more than the injured Federer.

AP

MEDAL | I.G.-ATP EDA

Manila softbelles clobber Parañaque; Laguna wins

By Mari Anthony Reyes

A PERFECT START

Bora Manila stamped its class over Batangas with a 10-0 rout in the opener of girls' softball on the Ice Manila Youth Games' inclusion tournament yesterday at the PUP field.

The Big City batters unloaded eight runs in the first inning alone before adding 10 in the second highlighted by a solo homer run by right fielder Sandra Sangcopan.

The 14-year-old Army Burgillanes worked the first two innings before Rose Ann Llave, 15, took over the pitching chores for Manila in the 20-under competition.

Manila coach Manny Llave said he expects other clubs to get better in the competition proper.

In the boys' 12-under baseball, Antipolo City shocked Manila, 11-1, breaking on two homers by first baseman Jonny Balcazar.

Tanauan City routed Taguig City, 13-3, in the girls' 12-under softball clash in Laguna downed Malaysia City, 9-7.

The ballgames started off the Games organized by the Manila Sports Council with events in taekwondo, swimming, football and track and field taking off today.

At least 7,000 participants are competing in the event which is an extension of the youth MVP, but with the addition of different clubs from all over the country.

Presented by Globe Telecom and backed by Pagcor, San Miguel Corp., PAL, Superferry, Nike, Diadora, Speedo, Red Bull, Land Bank, Smart Manila, Inter Sports and Gatorade Mexico, the MVP's institutional formats competitions from all clubs and municipalities.

Manila chief herald "Bo" Almeda, son of Manila Mayor Jato, said the competition hopes to bolster the city's grassroots development program.

Providing complete secure mobility and storage solutions for efficiency minded startup minds.
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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2007
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
B1
BUSINESS

John Paul O. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Carrie S. Barbosa

T-bill yields inch up on BSP rate hike

HOUSING LIBRARIES
President Macapagal-Arroyo listens to David Pichay (second from left) of the SM-Ayala Pichay Group of Companies as Official Wife/David Pichay Study Foundation, as his wife Aileen Bautista looks on. Behind them is Senate President Manuel Villar Jr. (left). The President spoke during the opening of Pichay's libraries' collection in Muntinlupa City.

Increases minimal as banks remain awash with cash

By Michelle V. Rosca

TREASURY BILL RATES ROSE up slightly across all maturities yesterday, snapping weeks of decline following the decision of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas last Thursday to raise its key interest rates a notch.

Excess liquidity in the market forced banks to scramble for government securities, thus keeping the rise in interest rates minimal.

The 91-day T-bill rate, used by banks as a benchmark in pricing their loans, rose by 3.9 basis points to 5.047 percent. The discount is for government securities more than four times oversubscribed, with tenders reaching P4.7 billion compared with the P1-billion offering.

"Movement of the T-bill rates was minimal given the liquidity situation," Security Bank Senior Dealer Cesar Cruz told reporters after yesterday's auction.

Cruz noted that there were P147 billion worth of maturing government securities this week that would further feed up liquidity among banks. Part of the cash generated by banks from maturing treasury bills and bonds are normally reinvested in government securities.

The 182-day bill fetched 7.099 percent, or 1.4 basis points higher than last week's. Tenders for the six-month government securities totaled P9.04 billion, much higher than the P1.5-billion offering.

The rate for the 364-day bill rose by 0.4 basis points to 6.362 percent. Bids for the one-year debt instrument hit P9.377 billion compared with the offering of only P3 billion.

The Bureau of Treasury's auction committee decided to accept bids lower than the scheduled borrowings. Cruz explained that the move was to prevent the rate recovery bill rates more aligned with the rates in the secondary market.

The Treasury accepted P914 million worth of bids for the three-month government securities, P1.26 billion for the six-month, and P1.44 billion for the one-year issues.

The BSP on Thursday raised its key interest rates by another 25 basis points, bringing its overnight borrowing rate to 7.5 percent and its overnight lending rate to 9.75 percent.

WORLD BANK STUDY
OFW money lifting many families out of poverty

By Doris C. Dumlao

REMITTANCES FROM OVERSEAS workers are lifting Philippine households out of poverty by boosting funds for education, health and entrepreneurship, a new World Bank study showed.

The study, titled "International Migration, Remittances, and the Brain Drain," also free to prevent evidence of the positive impact of remittances on poverty alleviation, included a detailed analysis of household survey data in the Philippines, Mexico and Guatemala.

The chapter on the Philippines indicated that households with OFWs tended to be wealthier than others in terms of per capita income based on 1997-1998 data.

In June 2007 or a month before the Asian financial crisis, the study estimated that 5.9 percent of Philippine households had one or more members working abroad.

Fifty-one percent of these OFW-sided households landed in the top 20 percent of the national household income per capita distribution while 28 percent were in the second highest quintile.

Only 4 percent of households with OFWs were ranked in the still living below the poverty line.

The average per capital income of OFW households was estimated at 209,295 (P776) during the pre-crisis years, pegged as opposed to ordinary households which had a higher poverty rate of 31 percent and a lower per capita income of P 11,017 (P486).

The study further noted that a one-penny exchange shock similar to the peso shock hitting against the $1 dollar during the Asian crisis contributed to an increase in household remittance receipts and actual household income. A $1 percent improvement in the exchange rate leads to a 0.6% percentage

(more on B2)

CURRENCIES

OCTOBER

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P49.66 ▲

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 24, 2007

P 111.79 ▼

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 24, 2007

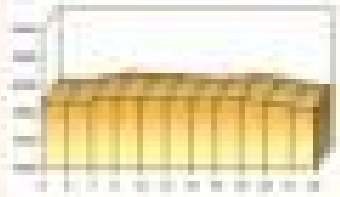
SOLD: P49.70-49.80

per www.forexpros.com, as of 5:00...

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

Jul-Oct 2007



(For more market news, see Page B4)

Shares fall after rate hike

INVESTORS MAY RETURN still reeling from the central bank's interest rate increase last week.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index fell 0.8% points, or 0.1 percent, to 7,497.47, after sinking 1.1 percent on Friday.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas raised overnight rates last Thursday by another 25...

(more on B2)

A promise is a premise

I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT'S TRUE. Bilyon down here in my barangay.

And it's not even that some groups (i.e., media in the anti-owned, bankrupt Duterte are said to be lobbying in Congress to defeat the proposed cuts of Duterte power plants).

As a good trollization of the anti-masses of such a lobby, the Duterte media was even proud to announce in media their plan to borrow an illion of dollary more in the near future.

Although Duterte is already his bed with high-risk debts, nobody can say if Duterte also wants to bury another generation of Filipino sheep-nation, too.

Just when nobody was looking, Duterte already made an "assistant" to this broke, but still cute, administration of Cha-cha.

Duterte transferred P200 billion of its debts to the national government.

Apparently, the purpose of the backwash throw-rice for Duterte to clean up its books, at least clean enough to make it attractive to buyers.

Now, the media was said to be asking some groups in Congress—which are loyal to this cute administration of course—to amend the epic law.

They aim to postpone the privatization. In other words, happy days are here again.

But that's not what is worrying us down here.

...

WHAT bothers us is, our poverty-stricken country is hosting the Miss Universe.

Here, it's not that the quadrennial event will not this country more or less, as much as the "push" that goes via-a-vising cheek and clothesline.

Everywhere. The event of inviting dudes and chickens should be unchilled four times to arrive at the rest of billboards on-down waiting shocked and stadiums, all proclaiming the good news from our government, our-government, mayors and jueteng lords.)

It's just that this is a basketball-crazy country.

And so, for the sake of the hope of adoring fans of the game, is this ABA Games that will cost us an arm and a leg, plus a vital internal organ.

We may not be able to field our own national basketball team.

...

BUT how in fernandez Jr's name could that happen?

Well, it's because our leaders in sports always know better than us.

They already decided that, if they could only sacrifice a bit, and they would continue to fight among themselves just a little longer, then we would not really need to compete in such a popular sporting event.

In this country after all, basketball games only cause brawls in bars, cinemas, and those stadiums built out of "push." We are probably the most basketball-lovin' country in the whole world!

Here, basketball is not just a national pastime; it is a religion. Every day, we pray to the basketball gods!

And so, for the sake of the fans, our sports leaders decided that they should just try to sacrifice hosting the SEA Games by simply brokering among themselves.

What else to save!

...

MEANTIMES, as our dearly beloved, most favorite politicians in their best to cut each other's throats—without much success, unfortunately—everybody else hastens to revive some businesses experts.

Up is down, con says wonder. Hell, a despatch.

Some things, if they go on, are good for us—economy. The unprecedented people in this 2B-confirmed country. It's know—sales, tournaments, youths and new jobs. These make the economy grow, and we all lose that.

On the other hand, some things better somewhere.

These are things like the inflation rate, interest rates, fuel prices, electricity rates and, last but not least, GRAFT and CORRUPTION!

To business speculators, they are arriving downwards those things that are good for us if they go up, and vice versa. Or don't, ah eh!

...

NOT only in business are they doing such a wholesale vamping sessions at every-thing. The cute administration is also busy trying to change its signs.

The Bangko Sentral, for instance, now's that it is raising the target for the inflation rate—meaning, simply, everything will become more expensive.

On the other hand, the same Bangko Sentral thinks that P10-piso workers abroad—the OFWs—still must more money, accumulate of up to 20 percent.

Then, you have the Department of Tourism saying that tourist arrivals will hit five million. Remember, how, a promise is a promise!

In other words, they are saying that, despite bad politics and even worse governance, we can expect to do better to tourists and OFW remittances next year.

It is known to my uncle in the "good news" circles.

But notice that the good news comes even what they call the BOP (or balance of payments), which is how the economic performs alongside other countries as "members."

The "variables" come from outside. We have absolutely no control over them.

I don't know if the room is indicative of the economic gains that these investments are supposed to bring about in this country.

...

OR THE proportion of rates higher to flation rates, of course. But, the cute administration has a good excuse: the investors to choose would decide.

The price of fuel must go up and along with it the cost of transported goods, even useless stuff such as food.

On that score, I also cannot but be convinced that the REVISED inflation rate, although it is higher, can reflect the cut in my spending power.

You see, the measure inflation based on a basket of goods, which are each assigned a different weight in the computation of the inflation rate.

With the tremendous jump in gas prices, fuel, and transport costs must be using up much more of our income, or spend. For instance, our food allowance.

I mean, to make ends meet down here in my barangay, we take away from food to cut phone load to make up for the rising transport cost.

Is that reflected on the inflation rate? Still, to the earth-square!

...

FOR instance, according to the revised target for inflation rate, it should not be 7.3 percent next year but, in reality, closer to 6 to 6.5 percent. Really?

That's a con—again. OMG—percentage point increase at the most. I don't know what comfort these guys in Bangko Sentral go to, but to one market down here in my barangay, prices do not increase just by 6 to 6.5 percent to a con.

Take the price of the most famous fish of all—the galunggong! At P60 a kilo, it's pricy because the fishery of this new administration.

How much does it currently? Well, you can get it for P90 a kilo—if you are lucky! And that's a 50 percent increase!

Add to the price of food, the price of clothing, medicine, transport fare—in other words, everything—and you have an inflation rate of only 6 to 6.5 percent? Sure, I can believe this cute administration, but I just want to know what country they are talking about.

What worries us down here, boss, is that this cute administration is not likely going to do anything about it.

It is still trying to be cute. But this administration is a cute one under steps.

I am not sure it is up to the task of telling us what we ought to take.

...

LOOK, the best that an apologists can offer us, the suffering public, is to call on all the politicos to stop bickering.

It is not even an original thought.

It merely echoes the public pronouncement from religious groups that are known to make endless and endless of money.

And to turn in a solution to our economy, economic problems, this poor country—one of the poorest in the region, in fact—is as exhaustive ... well, "reviving bayan."

Sure, boss, let's revive something from Bolsheviks to Thailand.

Let's do it tomorrow. So now, we change the president, and you now promise us more bad times.

What do we do down here, boss, in the face of these "revived sayers." That's what we want to know.

Global Ispat in debt default, creditors claim

By Clarence S. Batino

CREDITORS OF NATIONAL STEEL CORP. have declared the new owner of the steel company, Global Ispat Holdings Inc., in default after the firm failed to deliver a P500-million coupon this latter of credit last Oct. 15.

National Steel Insiders, led by Philippine National Bank, are now calling in the entire Ispat's P12.25 billion in unpaid principal loans.

Global Ispat is a unit of the steele-largest iron and steel company and one of the largest steel producers in the world.

If the issuance is not resolved, the creditor banks right away be entitled to the debt pile of the former National Steel, barely a year after its ripe problematic account was taken out of Bank Deficiency problem.

But according to a banker, at least the steel firm's team paid a billion pesos to cash last year by Global Ispat.

"I don't look at the default as unfortunate for banks because the new company had made improvements to, now, the company is worth more than it used to," the banker said.

Global Ispat had made improvements in National Steel's factory in Iligan City, which could raise the value of the steel firm's assets.

"Given the intransigence of the majority of BSC creditors, we hereby declare the entire unpaid principal of P12.25 billion immediately due and payable," said PNB in its Oct. 16 letter to Global Ispat and its subsidiary Global Steel Holdings Int'l. Inc.

Under the agreement forged last year, the new owner of National Steel will deliver a standby letter of credit worth P500 million on or before Oct. 15.

Instead, Global Ispat wanted to put up a P125-million letter of credit this year and another P1.25-million next year.

"Creditors rejected the offer of Ispat Inc. because it was not what was agreed upon," a banker said.

Among the creditors, PNB had the biggest exposure to National Steel with P5.6 billion or 41 percent of the company's more than P13 billion in obligations.

Under the deal with the Indian firm, Global Ispat will pay National Steel's secured creditors and original stockholders P15.25 billion even as it was period after the initial cash payment of P3 billion last year.

OFW money . . .

From page B1

point decline in the poverty rate, it noted.

Households receiving a room from OFW remittance were also more likely to start a business, get livestock or transportation and communication services, and own appliances which were activities involving considerable fixed costs in retailers and equipment that could become more affordable in the wake of positive exchange rate shocks, the study pointed out.

Those investing in transportation services were likely to venture into taxi and tricycle operations, while likely investments in trading services include small activities such as not treating, tailoring, dressmaking and food processing, the study said.

The fact that the exchange rate shocks stimulated such investments suggests that the remittances likely to have powerful and positive effects on households' well-being over the long term, in addition to their leading to reduction in current poverty," the study said.

The study also found evidence of positive spillovers in households without OFWs in terms of job-finding.

Other key findings of the WB study were:

- 11 percent of OFW household heads have some college or more education, compared with just 28 percent of non-OFW household heads;
- 23 percent of OFW household heads work in agriculture, compared with 58 percent in all other households;
- 46 percent of OFW households live in urban areas, compared with 39 percent of non-migrant households;
- Saudi Arabia is the biggest single destination of OFWs, with 26.4 percent of the total, and Hong Kong (China) comes in second with 13.8 percent. The only other economies accounting for 5 percent or more are Taiwan (China), Japan, Singapore and the United States;
- OFWs have a mean age of 34.5 years; 28 percent are single and 53 percent are male. The two largest occupational categories are production and related workers, and domestic workers, each accounting for 31 percent of the total;
- 13 percent of OFWs have advanced some college education, and an additional 30 percent have a college degree.

To address rising unemployment and balance-of-payments problems, the Philippine government initiated an Overseas Employment Program in 1974 to facilitate the placement of Filipino workers abroad. At first, the government directly managed the placement of workers with employers overseas, but soon shifted the function to private recruitment agencies and assumed a more limited oversight role.

A cup of latté and a daycare to go

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THERE ARE MORE SMILES GOING around in Barangay Tatalon, Quezon. Tomorrow Santos, thanks to the day care center filled with the laughter and high-pitched voices of children at play.

The same scene may be witnessed in the eight other day care centers set up in poor communities by Starbucks Coffee Corp., operator of the franchise chain in the Philippines, under the Ispatdilipan program with the United Nations Children's Fund.

Bob Reyes Lopez, head of corporate social responsibility of Starbucks Coffee, said the company initially thought of helping communities near Starbucks outlets as part of its outreach program.

But Ryanes quickly realized that most of the Starbucks outlets were in communities that do not really need help, at least not as much as those in provinces that will likely never see a Starbucks outlet in their midst.

Adopted communities

Starbucks' other adopted communities are in Bangkok(ton, Cameron, Northern Samar, Balangiga, Baler, Aurora, Cadiz(ontana), Tacloban, Ormoc, Bacolod, Negros Occidental, Dumaguete, Oriental Mindoro, Dumaraj, Dalton(Kalaw), Magsaysay(ton), Bulacan, Malaybay, Batangas, Mindoro Sur, Sta. Maria, Imbalo, San Isidro, Cauayan, Masbate and San Roque, Sibuyan(ton, Coronation Street).

Five of those communities were devastated by super typhoons that hit the country last December. Starbucks decided to make those its first beneficiaries.

To ensure the team support for every peso it donates, Barista Armed Forces with Daniel and, together, developed the Ispatdilipan program in November 2000 to provide underprivileged communities with access to early learning programs.

"We have always been advocates of early education," Lopez said. "And we want to contribute positively to the present of the poor. That is part of our mission."

Daniel developed the early education package, which involves teaching new people from the community to become day care teachers, provide tables and chairs, storybooks, educational books, musical instruments for a preschool and build a playground in the community.

Starbucks supports the program by providing the funds and other provisions needed to the implementation of the program.

Early learning

Lopez said Starbucks concentrated on early education because it believed that helping children up to six years old would reap the most rewards.

Studies show that the first six years of life were the most critical as a child's education, contributing 90 percent to his or her brain development.

Daniel has identified early learning as one of its top five global priorities for the next five years.

More effort has to be put in early education in the Philippines as only an estimated six of 10 children are enrolled, with one of five communities in the rural areas having an early learning program or not.

"By helping children, we help modify their chances of becoming better learners and workers," Lopez said.

Community work

Starbucks encourages its partners to take part in the monthly project by either making a one-time donation or a monthly pledge directly to the Ispatdilipan program or by participating in a regular program.

To the last promotion, for instance, where patrons get the chance to take home a free, limited edition Starbucks backpack, a portion of the generated fund was channeled to Ispatdilipan.

A donation of P50 will buy the honorary day care a story book, P1.00 for a textbook, P5,000 for required instruments, P10,000 to train three day care workers and P30,000 to build a playground.

Starbucks employees have been trained to provide patrons with facts they need to know about the Ispatdilipan program, and the employees are also encouraged to do community work, either as donors or volunteers.

The company itself has given at least P300,000 to support the program, and funds are still coming in.

"It is our hope to eventually have one native support base amongst day care facility," Lopez said.

THE SWEETEST smiles are on the lips of these children enjoying the day care facilities donated by Starbucks and Unicef's Ispatdilipan.

THE LIGHT in the girl's eyes makes donation worthwhile.

CORPORATE CITIZEN

Philippine Airlines returns to Beijing after 16 years

FLAG CARRIER PHILIPPINE AIRLINES yesterday said it would start regular flights to the Chinese capital Beijing on Nov. 11, ending a 16-year hiatus.

PAL will fly three times a week between Manila and Beijing, a company statement said.

The carrier flew to Beijing from 1979 to 1989, when services were suspended due to commercial reasons.

PAL said Beijing provides a bigger platform from which to access a growing tourist market.

Beijing will be the Philippine carrier's third destination in China. It already flies to Xiamen and Shanghai.

The service will operate three times a week, with departures from Manila (PR 358) every Sunday, Friday and Sunday at 7:30 a.m. Arrival at Beijing Capital Airport is at 11:30 a.m.

The return service (PR 359) departs Beijing on the same days at 12:50 p.m. and arrives in Manila at 5:20 p.m.

PAL will deploy widebody airbus A330-300 aircraft on the first two flights (once, Nov. 11 and 13), to accommodate the expected crush of passengers on the inaugural services.

Later, the airline will switch to the Airbus A320, the reliable workhorse of its Asian regional operations. The new generation jet owns a total of 138 in a 2-class layout—12 in Mabuhay Business class and 126 in economy.

When PAL first flew to Beijing, or Beijing was known then, in August 1979, the People's Republic was an ancient, closed society that had little contact with the outside world. PAL broke history then, becoming the first Asian airline to operate scheduled flights to mainland China.

Tour processing service, initially routed via Guangzhou and, later, Xiamen, lasted until June 1989.

Beijing will provide PAL a bigger platform from which to access a fast-growing tourist market. The World Tourism Organization estimates that the number of Chinese traveling overseas will soar from the current 10 million a year to 50 million by 2010, and to 100 million by 2020. That will make China the leading source of tourists worldwide.

The Philippines has set to raise advantages of this booming traffic by the first six months of 2005, the country welcomed only 50,426 visitors from China compared to 126,671 from the top-ranked United States, indicating immense potential for expansion.

With the addition of Beijing, PAL will extend its international network to 20 points in 14 countries and territories. The airline also flies to 19 points in the Philippines.

PAL said Beijing provides a bigger platform from which to access a growing tourism market.

Down to earth

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

HAVING HAD A BUSY WEEKEND, I AM trying to write this article while, at the same time, watching the imminent competition of Miss Earth. This is very difficult, as I have to separate the two hemispheres of my brain. The right hemisphere is for creative activities such as writing, while the left is for figures, though usually of a different kind. If I undertimate any of the comments, please have with me. Another problem is that my phone keep getting ringed over. I was supposed to have been a judge but my wife threatened to hide my kidney medicine.

SEIPI is bidding for a five-banner lot, which is currently Manila City Jail. If the deal goes through, the government will either have to relocate 4,000 remainees and regimen or give them jobs in the mall. The two offenders will be sent either to penal colonies of sweepstakes.

Instead of a pamphlet, I bought a thirdlessons copy, which says more once.

I got so depressed that I called the suicide help line but they put me on HOLD.

Welcome to the Mental Health Hotline.

If you are obsessive-compulsive, press 1 repeatedly.

If you are co-dependent, ask someone to press 2 for you.

If you have multiple personalities, press 3,4,5 and 6. You will be entitled to a group discount.

If you are paranoid, we know who you are and what you want. Stay on the line so that we can trace your call.

If you are delusional, press 7 and you will be transferred to the mother ship.

If you are manic-depressive, it doesn't matter which number you press, no one will answer.

If you are dyslexic, press 9696969696.

If you have a nervous disorder, just finger with the hash key until a representative comes on the line.

If you have amnesia, press 8 and state your name, address, phone number, date of birth, social security number and your mother's maiden name.

If you have low esteem, hang up. All our operators are too busy to talk to you.

* * *

IT was a boring week in the market until Friday, when the Phisix dropped 22 points after the Central Bank raised rates by a quarter point. The day before, Governor Tetangco refused to speculate on the future of interest rates after the Thai central bank had just raised its rates by a half point to curb inflation. Over the past month, Indonesia has raised rates 3 times to 11 percent after the rupiah hit a fouryear low. And the Fed has raised rates 11 months in a row and will continue to do so.

The effect of the increase was to strengthen the peso, which has been the strongest currency this past month and is about the only one to appreciate against a strong dollar. If the SSF bill is not delayed, deferred or overturned by the Senate or Congress, the peso will remain firm and interest rates will rise. This will help reduce the amount we spend on petrol and eventually reduce the effect of the VAT slightly. It will be the disadvantage of overseas workers who remit most of their earnings in their families. The SSS will affect new homes selling at P2.5 million or over and mortgage rates will rise. That is why SLI fell 60 centavos to P6.58 on Friday. Revision of increases in petrol and electricity plus a variety of goods and services, consumer spending will be reduced and the malls are no longer crowded like before.

On Oct. 27, the PSE is hosting a 1-day seminar on the Philippine Mining Industry for Trading Participants. Since the Supreme Court ruled that foreigners who invest in the mining industry could own 100 percent of any company they set up, the government is making it a priority to attract overseas investors, particularly from Asia. According to JPG we are sitting on 11 trillion worth of metals and minerals. We don't have the money or the technology to make extraction viable but foreign companies do and will, given the right incentives.

China grew by 9.4 percent in the 3rd quarter, which means that demand for copper, nickel and many other metals will remain strong. If the government can remove the bureaucratic red tape, we should be able to attract a huge volume of investment. As current mining accounts for 1.6 percent of GDP. By 2018, the government hopes to increase this to 15 percent, a near tenfold increase.

Many companies will be new and speculative but companies such as Philex should be able to find purchases for its large reserves of copper and gold. Recently, the company signed a contract with Trans-Pacific, a Canadian company that will provide it with sufficient initial funds in exchange for a modest stake in the project. If it goes well, Trans Pacific will put in more funds and increase its stake further. Last year, I predicted Philex PSE would rise to P1.80 and it did. This time around, I do not want to give a price target but the shares have been moving up steadily to P1.18, its high last June. It is never any higher, the next immediate resistance is P1.40. Volume has been increasing and on Thursday 880,000 bought 4.3 million shares on a single purchase.

PI Bitpino has changed its name to Bitpro and is symbol is now PIO. The 3rd quarter results are due in about a week and should show a 50-percent increase over the 2nd quarter. I would guess around P80 million against P53 million and the 4th quarter should be better still. The number of staff has increased this year from 1,700 to 2,400 and should exceed 3,000 by the end of the year.

Benny Ee and his family have opened their 3rd mall in China and Wal-Mart is one of their tenants. At present, these malls belong to the Ee family but they might be sold to SMPH or JSEC in the future.

Jollibee is targeting 1st billion for P1.6 million cash and growing abroad with its plans to expand into India and China. With 1,300 outlets in the Philippines, there is not much room for further expansion.

SMC is tripling its production of lead ore by January. Megaworld is putting up 6 new condominiums, especially for call centers. Robinson's Land is also building condominiums and malls as there is plenty of expansion going on. There are companies to watch.

I finished this article during 2 of the 30-minute commercial breaks.

I had my family read by Moody's. It cost only $3 but you have to answer 200 questions. The results were as follows: my daughter was a HOLD, my spouse UNDERWEIGHT and myself UNDERPAYMENT. I must remember to take my Viagra.

Shares

From page B1

bank points for the second month in a row and the third time this year after a hiatus of more than four years.

Bargain hunting, however, seemed to emerge yesterday, with investors picking up certain blue chips after the index dipped to around 1,900.

"Investors are still reacting to the central bank's interaction and the resignation of another (one bite), possibly within this year," said Ivan Rabia, analyst at AB Capital Securities.

PLDT closed 0.6 percent lower to P3,640, reflecting a 1.2-percent decline in its American depositary receipts in New York on Friday.

Ayala Land, the country's biggest property developer, slipped 1.2 percent to P6.68 as investors worried that its sales could be hit by the higher interest rates.

Meanwhile, Cebu Air, the country's largest airline, dropped 3 percent to P4.25 on expectations revenues may be hit by the steady rise in fuel prices, which would be boosted with the implementation of the expanded value added tax next month.

Except for the financial services sector, whose components could benefit from higher interest rates, all other sectors in dustries closed lower yesterday. AP

DISCLOSURES

MANILA ELECTRIC CO. will present its 2013 Third Quarter Results on Oct. 28, 3 p.m. at the Mezzanine Mini-Theater of the Lopez Building in Meralco Center, Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City.

* * *

ATLAS Land Inc. will conduct an analysts' briefing on the company's 9-month results from January-September 2013 on Nov. 11, 10 a.m. in the South Towers A and B on the 24th floor of Tower One in the Ayala Triangle, Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

* * *

SUMMIT Oil Mining Corp. issued 67,000 outstanding shares at P75 per share, and 50,000 outstanding shares at P74.75 per share, on Oct. 11.

The Exchange yesterday implemented a trading halt on the shares of Pancake House Inc. from 9-10 a.m. due to the company's issuance of five-year convertible notes. *Compiled by Jamie Antonio, PDI Research*

BUSINESS

FDI inflows in '05 seen to hit $900M

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS expects the country to end this year with $900 million in net foreign direct investments, or 8% percent below than the $349 million registered in 2004, despite robust macroeconomics.

The BSP forecast, which was presented to the Monetary Board earlier, factored in big-ticket investments planned by private companies in the power, manufacturing and even real estate.

"We're looking at investments in mining and energy this year and next year," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

In manufacturing, which accounts for about 70 percent of the country's industrial output, the electronics and food sub-sectors are expected to attract the biggest foreign investments.

FDI flows represent long-term investments in productive activities, usually capital- and labor-intensive.

The latest BSP forecast, however, was lower than the original expectation of $1.1 billion in both FDI flows for 2005.

The planned privatization of the assets owned by National Power Corp. a likewise were to bring in more FDIs to the country.

From January to July this year, the country generated $399 million worth of FDIs, more than double the $160 million from last year.

The forecasts are based on the BSP's projected balance of payments, forecasting actual flows that came in during the reference period as opposed to mere investment pledges.

The FDI inflows to the Philippines, however, are still too meager compared to the $140.9 billion in net direct investments expected to be poured into emerging Asian economies this year.

Based on estimates by Washington-based think-tank Institute of International Finance (IIF), Asia Pacific is seen to generate $63.9 billion this year and $640 billion next year.

China remains the major recipient of direct foreign investments in emerging Asia, as these, along with the modernization of the labor force, have transformed the country into a regional export base," IIF said in a recent report.

But IIF said trade frictions had recently raised some anxieties between China's production group from China.

2 IPR courts to be formed

TWO LEGAL COURTS SPECIALIZING in cases involving intellectual property rights are expected to be formed in November as the Supreme Court and the Intellectual Property Office finalize arrangements to this.

IPO Director General Adriana E. Crisóbal-Bengzon said in an interview that a memorandum of understanding was supposed to have been signed last Monday, but that this was put off because there were things to fine-tune.

"But we are confident that this would push through and that we could have IPR courts as early as November," Crisóbal said.

"In fact, the training of the people who will be involved in the IPR courts will start next month," he added.

Earlier this year, the IPO submitted to the Supreme Court a proposal seeking the creation of courts dedicated to IPR issues, which Crisóbal said could help boost the international investor community's confidence in the country's IPR system.

Currently, designated commercial courts are handling IPR cases along with other cases of commercial nature.

"We need a strong IPR system to foster productivity and innovation, attract investments and generate jobs," Crisóbal said.

He said Metro Manila alone, accounts for 900 IPR cases. Crisóbal said it might also be necessary to put up similar courts in other highly urbanized areas in the country, such as Cebu.

The Joint Foreign Chambers of the Philippines said the initiative was an "extremely positive step" in improving the protection of IP rights in the country. — Bonner W. Domingo

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Bureau of Treasury may cancel scheduled auctions

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE BUREAU OF TREASURY SAID THE government might reduce its domestic borrowings in the remaining months of the year.

With the government's cash level deemed safe and healthy, National Treasurer Omar Cruz said the Treasury might cancel the remaining Treasury bill auctions scheduled for this year. But this has yet to be finalized, he said.

The government is scheduled to hold two more 91dd and one 91ood auctions this year, which were projected to raise P13 billion. The government offers P4.5 billion in seven 13dd auctions and P4billion in every 91ood auction.

The idea of canceling the remaining 13dd and 91ood auctions scheduled for December came about after the government completed its borrowing requirement for 2005 earlier than expected. Finance officials said the government took advantage of the prevailing positive interest rate environment by completing its foreign borrowing requirements for the year early and by pre-funding its requirements for 2006.

The government set a foreign borrowing program of $4 billion this year, of which $1.5 billion should come from commercial sources through sovereign bond floats.

In the latest sovereign bond float in September, the government was required to borrow only $850million to complete its foreign commercial borrowing requirements for this year, as it had already raised $2.20 billion in January and May through similar bond issues. But the government decided to raise a total of $1 billion as that it could also pre-fund portion of next year's borrowing requirement.

The 12-year bonds issued last month, which carried a coupon of 8 percent, were priced at 99.305 percent to yield 8.25 percent.

LIFESTYLE

Lito Cinco Banal-Formoso

MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS ■ TUESDAY FITNESS ■ WEDNESDAY 3BM ■ THURSDAY FOOD ■ FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

New and old solutions to medical woes

Part II

MEDITRONICS, A new technology from Switzerland, uses a metal rod that transmits a low-frequency energy ideally to parasites, viruses, fungi, bacteria and pathogens.

The results, we supervised, are not only an effective treatment and control but also in curing just about any disease like asthma, cysts in adult onset diabetes, leukemia, hepatitis B, ulcers, heart disease, herpes simplex, high blood pressure, skin diseases and eye problems.

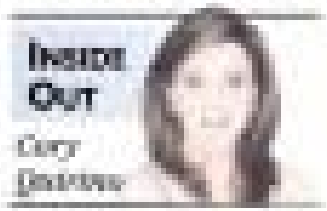
Its Association Philippines' officers, certified members were held in various hotspots in Metro Manila that treated some 1,000 patients. The most recent training was held in cooperation with the Department of Health.

The Meditronics equipment consists of hand-held rods the size of your pallet that are powered by ultra-mild batteries. A certain frequency is emitted that is lethal to many organisms. After 15 minutes (lasting 30 minutes each, just about any ailment will be relieved.

Testimonials about the new procedure came from, among others, Mrs. C. (name withheld), who had an infected eye that made her partially blind, and Mrs. S., who had leukemia.

Perhaps you are wondering if this treatment against organisms will have an effect on something like cysts.

Alternative medicine practitioners believe tumors and other illnesses are caused by parasites that morph healthy organs to cancerous and cohabit the body.



Call 3765300 or 9589857.

Potent antioxidant

In the search for cures for cancer (disease there is a conscious effort to look in nature once again. Hippocrates, father of medicine, said "natural forces are the healers of disease."

While the human body can heal itself, it also responds better to things natural. Thus, the harmony between nature and the body.

With the popularity of seedless grapes, few realize that the seeds contain powerful medicine. Today, scientists are beginning to appreciate the humble pip.

Grape seeds contain a bioflavonoid complex better known as proanthocyanidin Oligomers (PCO found to be 20 times more potent than vitamin C and 50 times more potent than vitamin E.

Biochemists derived from natural plants help prevent living tissues. There deep reddish purple color is visible in the skin of grapes, cherries, blueberries, leaves of the lemon and Ginkgo plant trees, and leaves of the hawthorn tree.

But of all the sources, grape seed is the most potent. Dr. Jacques Masquelier discovered the power of PC in 1948 while working on his thesis, focusing his research, a second patent was made. This time grape seeds yielded a 30 percent higher concentration of bioflavonoids than pine bark. He called it PCO.

Millions of people have been enjoying better health because of PCO. It is effective in the treatment of allergies, arthritis, edema, hardening of the arteries, cellulites, wrinkling of skin, brown spots/pigmentations, gum diseases, varicose veins, glaucoma, diabetes, etc.

PCO strengthens the connective tissues of the body and is anti-inflammatory, anti-allergy and an anti-oxidant. Above all, it is considered a powerful ally in slowing the aging process. It is now being hailed as the most powerful nutrient of the last century.

Miracle berry

Ostensible legend has it that the crown of thorns on Jesus Christ's head was made of hawthorn berry. The fruit has been known to possess antioxidant binding powers. Its leaves and berries are used for kidney stones, heart disease, coronary and liver problems.

Also considered as a powerful health tonic for the heart, it works as a stimulant. One X, 55, was suffering from heart spasms (angina). Desperate after conventional medication that had little effect, he tried hawthorn berry (the dosage—30 drops of a tincture in water three times daily increasing to dosage to 50 drops per drink later. After two days, he already harvest attacks grew longer (in four weeks, his life was back to normal and he returned to work.

Hawthorn tea is made from the flowers or leaves. One tea teaspoon of dry material and infuse it, a teapot for 20 minutes. The herb is also available in pill form.

(Reference: Miracle Food Cures from the Bible by Rose Dalton)

Your beauty regimen

Reviving water splash. Get a basket of cold water and douse yourself with a quick big splash. Do not hesitate or cover for a second. The shock will rouse your lymphatic system to awaken

already before with two more splashes. Then alternate with very warm water, followed by cold again. This ought to positively wake you up.

Your affirmation: "I am ready to face the world—alive, alert, awake!"

Clinic coupons

Bringing beauty to the heart of Ilong, Cin dermatological services centre offers a wide range of services and treatments to make you look good like microdermabrasion/diamond peel, mesotherapy, fillers injections and a lot more. Particularly interesting is the collagen mask that will almost instantly change the quality and look of your skin from bad to radiant.

Call 8439110.

Love and light!

THEY love to party: J&B's Mikey Chengwith Tip Tip Cim and Lucio Lim

LEO Pineda and Mae Cruz

BUBBLES Pereira and Partners Santos

EMBASSY'S main man Eric Cua with Stef Cukal, Kat Cruz, Ivan Calamoda, Reza Fren Kop and Ramina Diaz

EVENT and PR man GP Reyes with his gal, pretty Cinchu Suarez

J&B NIGHTCRAWLERS Nina, gorgeous Bianca Valerio

SHE'S the lawyer, sweet DJ in town, Mae Torres.

EMBASSY'S Enrique Herrera with Erlinda Ty and Ivan Calamoda

J&B FOLLOWERS Jorel Corpuz and Marc Abaya

Cola-rize your drink

NOW YOU HAVE SUMPHORIA, ASH surprises. And during the "J&B Nightology"—a the chi-chi night pop-ular Embassy Club at the Fort, palangas, those who expected the unexpected were not disappointed.

The phenomenon that is sweeping the world's party capitals is centered around the mixing and division wizardry, J&B. Recommended method of consumption: J&B mixed with coke," explained young PR shaker GP Reyes, host who else?

Nomenclature. Nightology's introduction in our town fulfilled its promise of the name-brand, pangyan. Invitees can all explain over tuo-nique the fact that now drink J&B and coke at the hottest club, Embassy, manila! The gorgeous host Monica Valerio limped in too engaging in a forsaken-ing chit-chat about explosion-ary muscling five bottles of J&B and VIP soon to the enthusiastic crowd.

A surprise fashion show had top models emerging from the vanishing mist and wowing vibrators outfits showcasing J&B's color scheme of green, red, yellow and blue. It was followed by a video presentation showing her rocker and MTV VJ Matt Abaya exploring from a silver Mercedes at the Embassy main door, jumping up the red carpeted stairway and attracting as in a fiesta-rock number set to hip-hop beat. That was cut the red, dahlings.

Another unprogramed number: DJ launch—the performance of awesome and pretty Mae Torres, the center's rising hot female DJ. And, finally, a special DJ set by events and PR man GP Reyes ended the main room. It also featured singer Jasmine Blas straight from Italy!

Expect more exciting unexpected happenings palangas, like a secret Mansion Party or 2006 Nightology voyage to Boracay and a special Nightology nights at the hottest bars. Hot hot, hah!

Shopaholics' haven

Oh my! It was a shopping village, palangas. All the while I thought I was going to a quaint little store during the ink opening of Tiendesitas at Pasong Tamo.

Instead, we entered an exotic shopping village dedicated to almost everything a shopaholic like me could want, all tied out in 10,000 sq m of space with breezy gardens for relaxation and exhibit space.

Driving in from C-5, you can't miss the pavilions in eye-catching Filipino architecture with Mexican influence.

Under these roofs are, lola says, 400 traders from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao specializing in unique merchandise, including some for export, that you won't usually find in retail outlets. It's a place where you'll discover the treasures and pleasures of our very own local goods and produce.

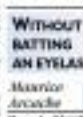
And what is real cool is that Tiendesitas will operate as a night market. Even bet shopping after work. People can have a fantastic dinner in one of several food outlets.

During the grand opening, Ilonio Mandin's old sweetie, the prodigious Olivgas Jamilla, personally conducted a tour of the complex for their invitees from the Valle Verde community, Department of Tourism, and Department of Trade and Industry, as well as Pasig City officials. It was a turn up-per-notch for the Ortigas clan, dahlings.

Tourism representative Bette Sellie was ecstatic. "We have been searching for this kind of an environment so we can be telling 'Wish one to have to promote Manila as a great destination. Tiendesitas is ideal," Sellie says.

Check it out, palangas. It's a different kind of shopping experience.

Oh, names come at it: Tiendesitas, eh?


WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH
Mauricio Arcache
Photos by Alex Tan Hagad
using Kodak EasyShare

Investire

The Body Shop personally started all the hubbub in the use of herbs, flowers and spices. Before you could bat an eyelash, Body Shop Philippines let out sheets. Now it has launched its newest fragrance range, "Brown Sugar Scrub."

A first of its kind in the country, this cool concoction of creamy and moisturizing mix to draw fragrances to create new and unique scents adds excitement and flavor to the entire fragrance line of The Body Shop.

Once the "buffet" wears over, rest lowered around this shop, and shocked out the time delightful scents: Aloes, Amaretto, Antique, Bridal, Chymsen, Cirella, Mirrors, Vehjan and Limchee.

It was truly a different and enticing kind of affair that outdid opposites and celebrities were adored, president of The Body Shop wouldn't have missed.

Three of the best university dance groups in the country headed by the dance group of my alma mater in Sofia, UMAP's Kinetix Dance Group and the UP Filipiniana Dance Group performed to great effect during the Mediatrix Grand Ambassador filled to capacity. The fabulously beautiful and articulate host, Pete Vingson of Wave 89.1 FM, did a superb job. We were served cocktail finger foods. Artists were from Idea and Bewitched Scents. Guests like Margarita Fores, Bambi Paterno, Myrna Tiston, Tonee Pante [Kate J. Perez's daughter], and Brazilian supermodel, ayuwingly gorgeous Elkie Tonnard of Posh Modeling Agency, talked about their favorite scent reminiscences from the "Sweet Star Scent" B.Y.O.B.'s range.

Body Shop endorsers Brad Turvey and Angel Aquino asked trivia questions about the U.S. Superstar range. Tons of lish prizes were given to those who answered correctly. Dahlings, like really had a cool time, sweetie-ng my own scent.

THE BODY Shop training manager Karen Dino with endorser Brad Turvey and PR and marketing officer Bobbie Francisco

TIEH star Haegan Young of GMAT Artist Center

TV ACTRESS Mylene Dizon

ORTIGAS: first lady Daisy Regalado R. Ortigas formally for the balloon ceremony.

"INVENT Your Scent" winningers

WINNER: 1 Of Pam Yingan

VICE Mayor Vinyng Martires of Pasig City with Nini Rapadas, CFO-OCLP

THE BODY Shop team with Angelica model Rita Tomai and Pam Yingan

TIENDESITAS opening RVPs: Capt. Antero Santiago, barangay chair, Bgy. Ugong, Pasig City; Fernando M. Ortigas, general manager, OCLP; Warner Manning, HSBC CEO; Lawyer Jose R. Ortigas, general partner, OCLP; councilor Macario Cruz of Pasig City; First Figueras, president of Valle Verde Federation

MARGA Ortigas

KATIPUNAN: Helen with Cheri Ortigas Mendiola, Mercedes Gonzalez and Mary Tan

ORTIGAS & Co. bondholders Tina Chan and Cecilia Ko announce handout invitees to the grand opening of Tiendesitas.

HSBC'S eye-catching first lady Julia Manning with Ron Ortigas, CEO of Ortigas & Co. Ltd. Partnership

BONDLANDIA Susie vis. de Roxas takes pride in Filipino ingenuity

Harmful earth rays cause stress at home, workplace

INNER AWARENESS

Annie T. Khonsten

MY COLLEGE OB/ DEC. 4, ABOUT how solid waste rays or geopathic stress affected a good number of students in our studies.

My secretary found some information about earth rays and the work of Rolf Gordon on the Internet, which I am including in this follow-up column.

After losing his 26-year-old son to cancer about 20 years ago, Rolf Gordon investigated the effects of harmful earth rays or geopathic stress on man's health. He discovered that sleeping on a place of geopathic stress "is the only common factor in cases of cancer and other serious and chronic illnesses."

He started down information about the subject in Denmark and Germany because there was no literature about it in English. Scientific places have called by many confusing names, so he simplified the whole subject by using the phrase "geopathic stress." He wrote a small book called "Are You Sleeping in a Safe Place?" to explain the phenomenon and how people can easily check the geopathic stress by themselves.

According to Gordon, "Geopathic stress is the Earth's vibrations which rise up through the Earth and are distorted by man-made energetic fields created by underground running water, certain mineral concentrations, fault lines and underground cavities. This distorted vibration becomes also erratic light and harmful to living organisms."

Questions to ask

How will you know if you are sleeping or working in a place with geopathic stress or harmful earth rays? Gordon has drawn the following questions you should ask yourself:

1. Did any health problems begin shortly after moving into this home or place of work?

2. Do I feel better when I am away from the home or place of work?

3. Do any of my family feel uneasy about the atmosphere at home?

4. Did the previous occupants suffer from any serious or long-term illness?

5. Does the illness seem to be worse during autumn or spring or are money troubles, failure, undue ground water rising or flowing at high pressure?

6. Have there any sensitive electronic devices which have ceased or developed a short cause in them into different channels under my house prior to my illness (example: hair dryers, building and road work, working quiet late and noises etc.)?

7. Does my home or any part of it feel somewhat silly cold or damp?

All living creatures

Not only human beings but all living creatures are affected by geopathic stress or harmful earth rays. Most animals will seek to sleep in a good place and will become stressed if forced to live in geopathically stressed homes.

Most trees and plants will have stunted growth and have an illness in a geopathically stressed place. Babies will move away from geopathically stressed place or there bed or cots. If babies are disturbed in their sleep, try moving their beds away from the worst place, Gordon advises.

According to Gordon, "Most hospital nurses will tell you some beds have a reputation of patients having more difficulty recovering, or where deaths are higher."

He also relates the story of Beverly who had an operation for brain tumor. The doctors told her husband she only had days to live. He suspected geopathic stress around his wife's bed. When he moved her bed, she recovered without illness... so did a pot plant next to her bed!

Gordon says research has shown that geopathic stress is caused mainly by narrow paths of running water about 200 to 300 feet below ground. They create an electromagnetic field that disturbs the earth's natural vibration, which is 7.83 Hz cycles per second, or cps which, in our moment of inner known, is the alpha brain wave rhythm.

The alpha rhythm of 7.83 cps has been established by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. When astronauts were removed from their terrestrial environment, they suffered mental and physical distress. In geopathically stressed areas, the vibrations can go as high as 200 Hz, where the brain is not healthy and has chance of fighting harmful microorganisms.

Not only homes but also office buildings and factories can be located in geopathically stressed areas and the people working there will suffer from all sorts of illnesses resulting in costly absences, sick leaves and accidents.

Detection

The presence of geopathic stress or harmful earth rays can be detected by a simple dowsing rod or pendulum that can easily be learned by anybody. Dowsing has been practiced since 10,000 years ago by people from all over the world to find underground water and minerals. It can also be used to check one's health, determine what vitamins or medicines to take, and to discover what food or drink one is allergic to.

The book of Rolf Gordon is not available in the Philippines. I got my copy from Argentina. It was given to me many years ago by an Argentinean who was a member of a dowsing society.

If you want to know more about the work of Gordon, you may contact him at 138 Gipsy Hill, London SE19 1PL England, or visit www.rolfgordon.co.uk.

Note: I will be conducting a Basic ESP and Intuition Development seminar on Nov. 18-19 in Davao. Call or text 0917-8553649.

Anniversary discount promo

LAUREL VIEW CENTER PHILIPPINES is making its second anniversary by giving a 15-percent discount on services until Nov. 15.

The days offers the patients a wholesome environment for various services.

Laurel View was established in the Philippines by Dr. Ma. Jona of Australian Nora Woodward Corp.

Its core philosophy for big success rests on the use of safe and medically supervised surgery in the management of the disorders.

Laurel View Center is at 4-E Angeles Plaza Bldg., 124 Pulaski Rodriguez St., Angeles Village. Call 8959777 or 8962281.

Breath of life

AS A FITNESS PROFESSIONAL, I have to renew my CPR or Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation certification every year.

During the Red Cross seminars taught by the knowledgeable and experienced Raul Pauig, I am always reminded of how much our lives depend on our ability to breathe.

We can live for days without water and weeks without food, but you cannot survive more than four to six minutes without air.

The air you breathe contains about 20 percent oxygen, 79 percent nitrogen, and traces of other gases. Your body only uses five percent of this oxygen every time you take a breath. Your exhaled breath contains 15 percent oxygen, which is why you have enough oxygen to supply this vital gas to sensitive persons through mouth-to-mouth respiration.

You take your first breath when you are born and your last when you die. In between, you will breathe about 25,000 times a day.

Breathing is such an essential part of life that we take it for granted. It happens spontaneously and naturally and yet many people do not breathe properly.

Experts say this may be due to a sedentary lifestyle, poor posture, stress and pollution. Bad habits like shallow breathing high up in the chest can become so ingrained people are not even aware they are not using their lungs the way they should.

Luckily, breathing is a body function that is both unconscious and conscious. When you put your mind to it, you can control the way you breathe and learn how to breathe right. You can also use your breath to control your emotions and relieve stress.

When you are feeling stressed or angry, your breathing tends to become rapid and shallow. This is part of the flight or fight response to stress. This is useful if you are truly going to fight or flee for your life.

But if your stress is chronic, this type of breathing is contingent harmful. It can cause fatigue, headaches, listlessness and mental sluggishness.

By consciously slowing down your breath whenever you feel anxious, you can calm down your mind and your emotions. Slow, deep breathing is the direct opposite of your body's breathing response to stress. That's the rationale behind that old piece of advice, "Take a deep breath."

Mind-body disciplines like yoga, Tai Chi, Chi Gung, Pilates, and the martial arts use the breath as a "bridge" to connect the mind and the body. When breathing is relaxed, the mind and the body are also relaxed.

Your breath and your emotions are so interrelated that you can purposely make yourself feel agitated by consciously taking rapid and shallow breaths.

The next time you feel stressed out, take a few minutes to calm down by doing a simple breathing exercise. It's free, it's convenient, and it works.

- Sit or lie down quietly.
- Exhale through your nose as you allow your belly to inflate.
- Exhale through your nose or mouth as you feel your belly deflate.
- Inhale and exhale for 3-5 counts.
- Focusing on the movement in your abdomen and the sound of your exhalation will make you even more relaxed.
- Do this for 5-10 minutes.

Healthy lungs

The best thing you can do for your lungs is not smoke. A person with advanced emphysema is a pitiful sight. Every movement is an effort, every breath a struggle.

Regular aerobic exercise like walking, cycling or swimming is one way to keep your lungs, heart, and blood vessels working in top shape.

The food you eat plays a major role in keeping your lungs healthy. Research found that oranges, red, green, and yellow fruits and vegetables containing the antioxidants lutein and zeaxanthin were highly beneficial to the lungs.

One study even found that the difference between smokers who developed emphysema and those who did not was a high intake of these fruits and vegetables.

The old adage "An apple a day" may be right on the mark when it comes to lung health. Based on several studies, researchers speculate that quercetin, a bioflavonoid in apples, offers cellular protection against damage caused by smoking and pollution.

The minerals potassium and magnesium and the essential fatty acid omega-3 also build healthy lungs. Foods high in potassium are oranges, bananas, tomatoes, beans, and squash.

Magnesium is found in dark green leafy vegetables, nuts, seeds, and whole grains. Oily fish like sardines, salmon, mackerel, and tuna are rich in omega-3. Other sources are flaxseed and walnuts.

Visit www.riveplusfitness.com.

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Standing quadriceps stretch

STRETCHES THE front of the thighs and hips; also develops a good sense of balance.

Equipment:
None

Exercise technique:

1. Stand with your legs shoulder-width apart.
2. Bend your right knee backward. Reach behind with your right hand and hold your ankle or foot.
3. Raise your left arm in front of you or about you for balance.
4. Avoid pulling your heel toward your buttocks. Instead, press your hip forward.
5. Hold for 10 seconds.
6. Repeat on the other leg.

Performance tips

1. Increase the stretch by pressing hip joint forward rather than pulling on the foot.
2. Maintain proper posture all throughout the exercise.
3. Hold the stretch but keep breathing.
4. If balance is an issue, hold on lightly to the back of a chair or the wall.

Something for everyone at wellness fest

TO CELEBRATE AND PROMOTE HEALTHY lifestyle options, Rancia Kalaisan, one of the key programs of the ABS-CBN Foundation, is holding The Family Wellness Festival: Live, Learn and Love on Nov. 12-13 at the La Mesa Ecopark in the East Fairview Subdivision, Commonwealth Ave. (La Mesa Dam Compound), QC. Proceeds of this event will benefit the ongoing reforestation of the La Mesa Dam's Watershed.

The festival will feature a variety of activities for health enthusiasts of all ages: a wellness bazaar with products ranging from body and beauty products, organic and natural wines, herbal and nutritional supplements, and the like; educational animal shows; sporting events including mall-climbing, aerial challenges and other games; and a display of camping, gardening and fishing tools.

Guests can also relax and rejuvenate themselves with massage therapies available during the festival, from Reiki to reflexology or even shiatsu, in line with the theme of the event, a delightful Healthy Cuisine Festival featuring top health food names is guaranteed to tickle your taste buds without the guilt.

Another first will be an open-air Jazz Festival at the La Mesa amphitheater. The two-day affair will have world-class performers like Mitch Valdez, Wency Cornejo, Bituin Escalante and Jovit Baldivino, with Jazz Ethnic artists such as Joey Ayala, Grace Nono, Pinikpikan and Pangbat Lumayan on the second day.

Entry in the Wellness Festival also includes the use of La Mesa Ecopark's amenities like the Gak Water Pool, The Orchidarium, the Boating Lagoon, Jogging and Biking Trails, the Picking Wharf, Picnic Grounds and a Flower Terrace.

Ticket prices are P800 for the Jazz Festival and Eco-Ethnic Music Festival with a two-day pass to the Wellness Festival, or at P350 for just the Eco-Ethnic Music Festival plus a two-day pass. Call the Ecopark Celebrities office at 413-8227 or 410-0674 for ticket reservations and other inquiries.

SCOTTIE at La Mesa Ecopark, site of forthcoming Family Wellness Festival

Wade into a new shoe experience

CONVERSE IS REINTRODUCING ITSELF AS A leader in performance basketball by unveiling on Nov. 3 an all-new signature shoe for one of the most notable up-and-coming stars of the American National Basketball Association.

The Wade Signature Shoe was inspired by Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade's dream-out but dynamic skills on court.

Jack Boys, Converse chief executive officer, said Wade had proven to be an important partner in re-establishing Converse basketball.

The brand considered Wade the embodiment of the values of The First School of Basketball, representing every athlete's ability to reach his full potential.

The Japanese proverb "fall seven times, stand up eight" captivated the way Wade played and the way he lived.

The player will be actively involved in the design of footwear, apparel and equipment for America's first basketball brand.

On the Wade Signature Shoe, designer Duane Lawrence said the shoe had to capture the aggressiveness of its namesake but still stay sleek.

The shoe has mesh windows made to resemble shark gills that let the foot breathe. Wade's game-winning shot against Utah and New York with eight seconds left on the clock gave Lawrence the idea to add a shot clock detail inside the shoe.

The limited edition Wade Signature Shoe is available in black and red and blue and yellow colors. In the Philippines, only 600 pairs will be available in mens and athletic goods shops.

Converse's position at The First School of Basketball began even before professional basketball was established. Starting with the Chuck Taylor All Star shoe in 1923, Converse led with footwear innovations that defined eras and contributed to the evolution of the game.

WADE Signature Shoe, inspired by its namesake's dynamic skills on court

DWYANE Wade